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Social workers: We'll disrupt peace celebrations

SASHA SADAN

THE Association of Social Workers warned last night it would disrupt anticipated celebrations related to the signing of an accord with the PLO, unless the cabinet took measures to resolve the 11-day-old strike by its 9,000 members.

Union head Eli Ben-Gera said the government could not get away with a fuss over peace and ignore the suffering of the 300,000 people served by social workers.

David Ziso, spokesman for the union, said there had been no contact with Treasury officials. Ben-Gera has said the strike will not end until the union has a signed wage agreement. Treasury wage director Shalom Granit has said he will not negotiate as long as the social workers are on strike.

Ziso said that during the walkout, the union's strike headquarters in Tel Aviv had received 800 calls from social workers who wanted to respond to calls for help. But the union will only allow social workers to intervene in cases in which lives are endangered, with few exceptions.

Over the weekend, a 13-year-old rape victim was taken to the hospital and a social worker was allowed to help the girl, who required a thorough obstetric exam. But the social worker, required by law to interview her, was not permitted by the union to do so.

In another case, a social worker was allowed to help an 11-year-old, the daughter of a mentally ill mother, after the girl fled from home with signs of extreme violence on her body. The girl reportedly said she feared for her life, Ziso said, and a social worker was allowed to find her shelter in a facility for distressed girls.

Danger: low-flying, undetected asteroids

DEBORAH ZABARENKO

WASHINGTON

IN THE dead of winter, fishermen in the tropical Pacific reported an extraordinary sight: a big fireball, brighter than the morning sun, that left an hour-long trail of dusty debris falling to Earth.

They didn't know it then, but they were watching an astronomical event that has reverberated around the world and pointed out what astronomers say is a very real risk of getting killed by an asteroid. Seriously.

What the fishermen saw on February 1 was a previously undetected meteorite or asteroid that exploded in flames about 19 kilometers above the Earth's surface near the island of Kosrae, also known as Kusaie, part of the Caroline Islands.

"The flame was reddish and bluish in color and very bright," according to an eyewitness report compiled in Kosrae. The fishermen "heard no explosion nor did they notice any unusual bright flashes beyond the horizon... The falling smoke remained for about one hour."

What made the fireball significant, US astronomers say, was its large size. At about 10 meters in diameter, this object — formally termed a bolide — was the largest ever detected by satellites posted around the world.

The amount of energy released was at least comparable to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima, the scientists agree. Some estimate the energy was 10 times that much.

And therein lies some confusion.

The fireball's massive airburst tripped orbiting military sensors around the globe, and at least one member of the US astronomical community maintains these sensors were unable to tell the difference between this natural phenomenon and a possible nuclear strike.

This scientist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said President Clinton (Continued on Page 2)



South African policemen carry boxes of ballot papers from a helicopter to a polling station in Mdwedwe in KwaZulu-Natal on Friday, after voting was extended owing to a shortage of materials. (Reuters)

ANC predicts big victory as vote counting begins

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The African National Congress brimmed with confidence yesterday as election officials started counting millions of paper ballots. ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa forecast a 60 percent landslide and urged supporters to show self-control in their celebrating.

First returns told a different story. The bulk of those returns were from the Western Cape region that includes Cape Town, where the National Party jumped to a lead among mixed-race voters who have embraced the candidacy of President F.W. de Klerk. The National Party had 14,436 votes to 4,696 for the ANC.

However, the initial result was expected to be reversed as results from the rest of the country start to flow in. There were an estimated 22.7 million votes to be counted nationwide.

The vote is expected to sweep ANC leader Nelson Mandela in as president of a new democratic South Africa, leading a five-year coalition government that would also include de Klerk.

Ramaphosa's prediction of a 60 percent triumph for the ANC was based in part on the huge turnout among black South Africans who jubilantly voted for the first time in the elections from Tuesday to Friday. A week ago, Mandela had

spoken only of winning a majority.

The key target for the ANC is 67 percent. If they achieve that, the organization that led the anti-apartheid struggle would have the two-thirds majority in parliament required to enact the country's future permanent constitution.

Foreign observers and South Africans alike marveled that the election had come off peacefully, despite dire predictions of terrorism and civil war. The vote effectively transfers power from a white minority of 5 million to a black majority of 30 million. "Seldom in the annals of human history has such a fundamental transformation been accomplished in such a relatively peaceful manner," said a statement issued in London by Emeke Anyaoku, secretary of the Commonwealth, the grouping of former British colonies that the new democratic South Africa is expected to quickly rejoin.

For some ANC backers, the party had already started. In Cape Town, hundreds of ANC supporters celebrated into the early morning yesterday at a "victory party" held before the first ballot was tallied.



As the party reached fever pitch, chants of "ANC! ANC!" reverberated around the dance hall.

Black and white grabbed hold of the nearest set of hips and formed a dancing chain. "This is what the new South Africa should look like," said one merry-maker. Ramaphosa appealed to ANC supporters to show restraint as they celebrate over the coming days.

"Our people must be orderly. They must be peaceful. They must express their joy in a way befitting members of the ANC," said Ramaphosa, considered a likely candidate to be vice president under Mandela in the new administration.

Heads of the observer teams from the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the European Union and the Organization of African Unity held a joint news conference to give their stamp of approval to the voting.

"We are satisfied that the people of South Africa were able to participate freely in the voting," the group statement said. (A new world, Page 3)

Nascent Palestinian police force to get hand-me-down equipment

SUSAN SACHS

CAIRO

WHEN they march proudly into the Gaza Strip within the next several weeks, Palestinian police officers will be wearing used Norwegian army uniforms, carrying British riot gear, and driving American trucks equipped with vintage 1948 Greek communication equipment.

Sorry, the various donors have said, socks and underwear are not part of the package. How about some secondhand Greek sailor uniforms and broken-in US Army desert boots? The list of what's missing is a long one and time is growing short. An agreement on Palestinian self-rule is expected to be signed this week, with the police to be deployed soon afterward.

"What is needed far exceeds what has been offered so far," said Nabil Sha'ath, the chief Palestinian negotiator at the talks on Palestinian autonomy in Cairo, where a Norwegian-led committee has also been soliciting donations for equipping the nascent police force.

For the first time in modern history, the richer nations of the world are creating an entire police department, almost from scratch.

So far, the new officers don't have enough to wear. They don't have two-way radios, telephones, typewriters, a commu-

cations system, computers, first-aid kits, batons, handcuffs or places to live. Some countries like Greece, which have offered used equipment and trucks, don't have the money to transport them to the Egyptian staging area. Worse, there is only enough money in hand to pay Palestinian police salaries for the first few weeks.

Within weeks after the signing of the agreement, thousands of PLO policemen are supposed to enter Gaza and Jericho to carve out order from chaos, present an image of stability and demonstrate to Palestinians and Israelis that they can handle security.

The World Bank and Norway estimate the Palestinian force will need nearly \$30 million worth of equipment for its first six months of operation and another \$38m. worth to be totally up and running in the first year. To pay recurrent costs, mainly salaries, it needs \$32m. in the first six months and \$84m. annually.

Sha'ath said the PLO will provide weapons for the police, although he refused to say from where or how. But only a fraction of other "priority" needs, as

the Norwegian-headed committee calls them, have been met. Spain has already delivered a check for \$150,000 to the PLO for a new Motorola communications system that will permit Palestinian police to talk to Israeli soldiers, with whom they will operate joint patrols.

In the case of other donors, however, the check is still in the mail. The European Union pledged \$12 million, but hasn't delivered. France and Italy, to name only two other potential European donors, have yet to offer anything. Only Greece and Norway have delivered funds for recurrent costs. Other countries have opted for less technical contributions. The Germans will train Palestinian police, once they build a school in Gaza. The Swedes will give police seminars on human rights. Japan gave \$10m. to a UN agency to pay for police housing, but won't release it until the PLO submits project plans. So far, the PLO hasn't done so.

Three thousand of the promised 10,000 secondhand Norwegian army uniforms, however, already have been turned over to

the PLO and its tailors in Egypt, who will sew on Arabic police insignia. Delivery of the rest — all in dark green with little caps, gaiters, white-and-gray striped cuff protectors, and clunky black leather boots — is expected "very soon," according to Norway's embassy here.

The first shipment of American army cars and trucks is due to arrive this week in Egypt via US military cargo airport, with the rest to follow by ship by mid-May.

The full complement of American-donated vehicles encompasses 50 GM Blazers, 100 utility pickup trucks and 50 2½-ton troop convoy trucks — with a year's worth of spare parts.

Egypt said it will contribute the equivalent of \$5m. by training 4,440 officers and will provide logistical support for the movement of Palestinian policemen into Gaza. Jordan also has trained a few hundred Palestinians.

But only Saudi Arabia, of all the rich Persian Gulf oil sheikdoms, has stepped forward with anything else. It will fly the militiamen-turned-police from their scattered bases around the Arab world to their Sinai desert staging area just outside Gaza. They will arrive in style in Royal Saudi Air Force planes. (Newsday)

Israel offers three-stage Golan Heights withdrawal

First stage to end with return of Druse villages

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL is willing to sign an accord for an unspecified Golan withdrawal to be completed in three stages over a five- to eight-year period, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Secretary of State Warren Christopher Friday. However, Rabin did not commit Israel to a full withdrawal, diplomatic sources said.

The only mention of specific territories were the Druse villages on the Golan, sources say.

Rabin said Israel could yield the Golan Druse villages at the end of the first phase, including Majdel Shams, in return for Syria establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Furthermore, in a US-Israel working group session on Friday, senior Israeli officials conveyed detailed guidelines on Israeli demands for security arrangements with Syria. Israel also outlined its proposed components for a future US military package to offset the risks incurred by withdrawing from the Golan.

Israeli officials hoped the details provided would generate enough momentum during Christopher's visit to Damascus yesterday to get the peace talks with the Syrians moving again.

"Objectively, the package Christopher is taking to Damascus is full of phases and detail. It should allow the peace talks to take off," a senior official said.

Christopher held four hours of talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad last night and is scheduled to meet with him again today before returning here. However, it remains unclear if enough progress was achieved in Damascus and Jerusalem to warrant a second trip to Syria tomorrow.

Diplomatic sources say that in a wider Rabin-Christopher forum, which included aides on both sides, Rabin said that any accord with Syria could be accomplished in three phases, over an eight-year period. He said, however, if Syria completes normalization within five years, Israel could meet that timetable. No maps were presented, and Rabin did not present the extent of Israeli withdrawal.

Israeli details on security arrangements and its views on a proposed US military package were presented in a key working group panel on Friday, sources said. The US side was led by US special Middle East peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross. The Israeli side had at least three participants: IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, Rabin's personal military aide Maj. Gen. Danny Yatom, and chief negotiator with Syria, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

While it is unclear what security arrangement demands were

presented Friday, basic guidelines until now have stressed Israel's belief that the Golan areas withdrawn from must be demilitarized, and that limited forces areas must be created on both the Syrian and Israeli side. Israel would prefer to continue to man its early warning stations in the eastern Golan and wants Syria to ensure the disarming of Hizbullah in southern Lebanon.

Rabin has also said he would accept Americans as monitors on the Golan Heights as part of a multinational force of observers, but not in a combat role.

The makeup of a US security package is believed to involve preserving the US military aid level of \$1.8 billion over several years, and improved access to US early warning and advanced technologies not available to Israel at present, such as satellites.

Rabin told Christopher that the next step in negotiations should be Syrian willingness to hold stepped-up talks, so the two countries can simultaneously explore the components of the peace package and their relationship to each other: the nature of peace, the scope of withdrawal, extent of security arrangements, and a timetable linking the three.

Sources say Syria has already signaled its willingness to upgrade its peace talks with Israel either to the level of foreign ministers or to have direct military-to-military talks, but only if it is convinced that Christopher made major progress during this visit.

Over the weekend, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres defended the decision not to disclose the territorial extent of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan until it knows more about Syrian plans.

In response to a question posed on Channel One about Israel's withdrawal goals, Peres replied, "Does [Syrian President Hafez] Assad reveal all he's willing to give up?"

"If he would say, 'I'm ready for full peace, for regional peace, to come to Jerusalem...when that happens, we'll decide exactly what to say.'"

After a working lunch with Christopher that touched on a variety of issues, including the multilateral peace talks on regional issues, Peres said, "[Friday] we concluded, I hope, one chapter on the Palestinian side and we are now beginning another chapter which is aimed at the northern part of the country, namely Syria."

Meanwhile, an opinion poll published in *Yedioth Aharanot* on Friday found that 58 percent of Israelis disagreed with Rabin's recent statement supporting dismantling Golan settlements for peace. However, 51 percent agreed with Rabin's statement that "peace is a value more important to the future and security of Israel than this or that group of settlements."

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Hundreds of thousands of Rwandans flee to Tanzania

Clinton calls for immediate ceasefire to end bloodshed

NAIROBI - Hundreds of thousands of Rwandans fleeing the ethnic bloodbath in their homeland advanced toward the border with Tanzania yesterday in a line that stretched for more than eight kms.

More than 250,000 refugees fled into Tanzania on Friday. UN officials said Rwandan army troops abandoned the border ahead of advancing rebels and that refugees were walking toward the frontier.

"We estimate another 400,000 are near the border, very near to crossing. We are talking about a total of about 600,000 people," UN spokesman Abdul Kabia said by telephone from Kigali, the

capital.

President Clinton yesterday called on the Rwandan Army and the Rwandan Patriotic Front to accept an immediate ceasefire to end the bloodshed in the African nation.

Clinton, in a special radio address aimed at Rwanda, said the violence there "has shocked and appalled the world community."

"On behalf of all the American people, I call on the Rwandan Army and the Rwandan Patriotic Front to agree to an immediate

ceasefire and return to negotiations aimed at a lasting peace."

"I reaffirm the American commitment to participate in renewed negotiations," said Clinton.

Estimates of the numbers of refugees varied widely and earlier the UN estimated the total could reach 300,000 to 400,000 refugees. Kabia's figures came from estimates by observers in the area.

A UN source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Kibungo province along the southeastern

border with Tanzania had fallen to the rebels.

"The border was guarded by government forces. It seems now they are either unable or unwilling to protect it," said Kabia.

Kabia said the refugees fleeing into Tanzania included Hutus frightened by the advance of the mostly Tutsi rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front and Tutsis afraid of being massacred by militias or the Hutu-run government forces.

The UN secretary-general urged the Security Council on Friday to reconsider its decision to withdraw most of its soldiers from Rwanda and requested that peacekeepers be allowed to use force to prevent further massacres.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali's request was contained in a letter to the Security Council that was leaked to journalists. The council met early yesterday and issued a statement condemning the killings, the second this month.

The council also affirmed the need to find ways to help restore order, including an arms embargo on Rwanda, and to help and protect refugees. The statement did not mention peacekeepers specifically.

The secretary-general's letter, addressed to Security Council president Colin R. Keating, did not specify how many peacekeepers were needed or exactly what their power should be.

The secretary-general of the

Miracles abound in the new South Africa

DAVID CRARY
JOHANNESBURG

THE word "miracle" is used freely in South Africa these days. To one returning after four years away, it borders on understatement.

The election itself is spectacular - long-disenfranchised blacks voting to make a former political prisoner their president, with the cooperation of the white party that for decades was their oppressor.

But other miracles abound in a nation sprinting away from its reputation for divisiveness.

A black priest, once tortured by white soldiers, now prepares to serve in Parliament, eager to work with his former enemies to build a new South Africa. A police force notorious for repressing blacks now guards them as they vote, and pursues white extremists.

A black journalist jailed for opposing apartheid is now co-director of the national broadcasting company.

During the state of emergency from 1986 to 1990, the hymn *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* (God Bless Africa) was the anthem of the anti-apartheid movement, sung defiantly at illegal gatherings of banned opposition groups.

Now it is the national anthem, played majestically at sign-off time on television over scenes of the breathtaking landscape, of blacks and whites at work and play.

In the 1980s, the government tried to rid itself of Botshabelo, where 500,000 blacks lived in clusters of shanties scattered across a treeless plain in the Orange Free State. It was a dumping ground for blacks expelled from white-owned farms. White authorities wanted to strip them of their South African citizenship by transferring jurisdiction over Botshabelo to the poverty-stricken black homeland of OwaQwa.

This week, Botshabelo voters formed lines close to 3 km long,

helping bring democracy to South Africa.

"Things have changed completely," said Mandla Maseko, 24, a campaign worker in Botshabelo for the African National Congress. "In the '80s, people here were scared to be part of the struggle. Now, I can say 90 percent are supporters of the ANC."

"They are really excited. They really want to see change."

Blacks also voted proudly in the ramshackle township of Oukasek. The government officially abolished Oukasek in 1986, but in a remarkable show of defiance, 8,000 residents refused to leave in spite of constant harassment and offers of better homes elsewhere.

"Sometimes in life you get tired of being harassed. You decide to resist," a resident named Sello Ramakobye had said back then. He spoke with the quiet determination heard so often in black townships, a tone that foretold apartheid's doom.

Under apartheid, blacks had only 13 percent of South Africa's land despite making up 75 percent of the population. Now blacks and whites are joint owners of such splendors as Kruger National Park, the Drakensberg Mountains, the rugged coast of the Cape of Good Hope.

Even in the shantytowns around Durban, as squalid and violent as any place in South Africa, there is an ebullience, a confidence that was not there in the '80s.

Perhaps the greatest miracle is the spirit of reconciliation, like that of the Rev. Smangiso Mkhahle, an ANC candidate for Parliament.

"The crimes they committed against our people, the pain they inflicted, cannot be forgotten," he said. "But there is a difference between remembering and wanting to be bitter."

(AP)

UN warns of deteriorating situation in Gorazde

SRECKO LATAL
SARAJEVO

SERB soldiers attacked British troops twice inside a NATO-declared area around the eastern town of Gorazde, that was to be clear of Serb forces, UN officials said yesterday.

The soldiers were attacked Friday southeast of the town and fired back, a British spokesman said. As many as three Serbs were reported killed. No British soldiers were reported injured.

Under a NATO ultimatum, Serbs were to have pulled back three km from Gorazde last weekend, and 20 km by Wednesday.

The United Nations said it was satisfied with Serb compliance. But a report from local UN aid workers, obtained by The Associated Press yesterday, said military observers were continuing to find military equipment "in violation

of the NATO ultimatum."

It also said military observers reported "burning of houses continuing" outside the three-kilometer zone.

An eight-man British UN patrol came under fire Friday afternoon while patrolling within the three-km limit, said Cmdr. Eric Chaperon, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo. They returned fire and tried to withdraw.

Chaperon said Serbs followed the patrol and fired on it again before the British peacekeepers successfully withdrew while returning fire.

A British spokesman at the UN base in Vitez, speaking on usual condition of anonymity, said it was being treated as an isolated incident. He said there was no request for air support. Chaperon said a protest had been lodged with the Bosnian Serbs.

British officials said three Serbs were believed to have been killed in the shooting. Chaperon referred only to three casualties. The local UN report said one Serb was killed and two wounded.

That report also said an Egyptian peacekeeper had been wounded, and that a British soldier was hurt earlier in the week by one of many anti-personnel mines being found in the area.

"The situation has been characterized by the (military observers) as tense and deteriorating," the report said.

It also said Serb civilians "continue to arrive to populate areas under their control." It said UN civilian affairs officers visited Hubjeri, in the northeastern part of the zone, "where up to 200 Serbs have returned... accompanied by Serb militia."

The arrivals are an apparent Serb effort to stake out territory they claim as theirs by populating it with civilians under armed protection.

Bosnian Serb authorities released copies of a letter to the UN relief agency demanding food, clothing and other emergency supplies for Serbs in the area. The letter said 10,580 Serbs lived in the area before the war, but most had been forced to flee.

Clinton polishes foreign policy image

WASHINGTON (AP) - Pointing to progress in South Africa and Bosnia, President Clinton sought to polish his foreign policy image yesterday amid growing criticism from Congress and others.

Clinton, in his weekly radio address, said the United States had played a positive role in South Africa's transition to a non-racial democracy and that US efforts in Bosnia "clearly generated new progress toward peace."

"This kind of vigorous American engagement and leadership remains vital, not only in South Africa

but around the globe," he said, adding that this week he will announce a substantial increase in US aid to South Africa.

Clinton said the administration was facing other threats - including North Korea's nuclear program and state-sponsored terrorism from Iran and other backlashes - with "steadiness and resolve."

His address made no mention of critics' charges that the Clinton administration's foreign policy has been indecisive and wavering, particularly with regard to Bosnia and Haiti, where efforts to return ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide to power have failed.

Clinton made no mention of Haiti in his radio address and said that American involvement in Bosnia was essential to peace efforts.

"That's why we've been working to spur negotiation among the warring parties and it's why we've harnessed NATO's power in the service of diplomacy," he said of the Bosnian conflict.

Clinton sought to focus on the landmark multiracial elections taking place in South Africa, calling them "an inspiring testament to the

Confessional draws apologies, revelations

NEW YORK (AP) - The nameplate for the apartment in midtown Manhattan's flower district reads simply "Apology."

Inside, a bank of answering machines in a back room beep and click regularly, recording sad, anonymous stories and dark, painful secrets.

Most callers apologize for crimes against humanity, large and small. But they also can listen to a taped recording of other people's transgressions and comment if they like.

This is the Apology Line, and Mr. Apology is at the controls of the electronic confessional.

So who is this man? Don't bother asking. Mr. Apology won't give his name because he believes his anonymity is important to the people across the country who call and bare all to his machines.

This much is known about him: He is a midsize man, pudgy around the middle and in his early 40s, according to the gray in his beard and brown wavy hair.

Mr. Apology also is a rapt student of human nature, a thoughtful man with a gentle laugh who scrupulously reserves judgment, even for what society deems its most heinous transgressors.

"What I try to get out of the Apology Line is really a broad picture of human nature, the kind of wars-and-all picture," he said during a recent interview over coffee in his kitchen.

"Whenever I feel that the Apology Line is going right into the heart of someone's psyche, that's when it's really good."

Mr. Apology started the line in 1980 as a way to collect apologies for an art exhibit. At the time, he had his own secret: He was a compulsive shoplifter. But he finally stopped, and thought a confessional might be a first step to help others solve their problems.

There were the petty offenders, like the military man who called to atone for stealing toilet paper from work. There was the large contingent of philanderers, and also the street criminals, remorseful, perhaps, for yanking a gold chain off a passer-by's neck.

There are callers, of course, who owe a lot more than apologies, like the man who claimed to be a serial attacker or others who claimed to have killed.

Pope recovering after operation

ROME (Reuters) - Pope John Paul was in good condition yesterday after he underwent an operation to repair a broken right thigh bone, the Vatican and doctors said.

"The Pope is in very satisfactory condition, better than we expected," Doctor Emilio Tresalti, medical director of the Gemelli hospital, told Reuters.

He said the Pope would have to avoid brusque movements but otherwise would be able to live a completely normal life. He said there were no signs of post-operative complications.

"The Pope spent a tranquil night with several hours of sleep. He does not have fever. The functional parameters - heart rate, blood pressure - are normal," papal spokesman Joaquín Navarro-Valls said after visiting the Pope in hospital.

"I found him to be in good spirits, very positive," Navarro-Valls told reporters at the Vatican.

The spiritual leader of 960 million Roman Catholics broke his right femur on Thursday when he slipped in the bathroom of his Vatican apartments. The fracture is common among the elderly.

Doctors on Friday replaced the head and neck of the femur with a substitute made of metal alloys. They said he would have to remain in hospital for up to three weeks before beginning physiotherapy.

It was the sixth time a stay in hospital had forced the Pope to slow down the dizzying pace of his 16-year papacy, which has included 61 foreign trips.

Jewish lawyer is Singapore's crusading conscience

DENIS D. GRAY
SINGAPORE

IN A place where citizens fear to question municipal ordinances, he openly calls powerful elder statesmen Lee Kuan Yew a fascist and Singapore's controlled media "poor prostitutes."

In a strictly run city-state where 1,000 people are flogged every year and 78 were sentenced to hang in 1993 for drug trafficking alone, he says: "I have always felt that brutality is not the answer to crime. It demeans us. It demeans human dignity."

David Marshall is the son of Iraqi Jewish immigrants - his name was Anglicized at birth. His eyesight failing at 86 but his mind still razor-sharp, is the toughest critic of a government that has developed political control and social engineering to a fine art.

There are virtually no others like him in Singapore, certainly none with his stature.

"What I have said is true. I don't think they can pin anything on me," Marshall said in an interview, by way of explaining why he has not been silenced like other opposition figures who were "squashed like flies."

The answer more likely lies in his past, his age and his simultaneous praise of Singapore's undeniable successes.

Like Lee, Marshall was a founding father of Singapore. He led the

fight against British colonial rule, and as head of a transition government in the mid-1950s, had his first clash with the ambitious young lawyer who became prime minister in 1959.

Lee, who stepped down as premier in 1990 but remains the most formidable figure in Singapore, went on to turn an impoverished, conflict-ridden backwater into a clockwork "economic miracle."

Marshall never had the instincts for political infighting. Instead, he became a star defense lawyer and civil libertarian, "a leonine presence whose brilliance is matched only by his great oratorical power," as one historian wrote.

In 1978, Lee sent Marshall to France as ambassador - in order, some said, to muzzle an outspoken critic. Marshall returned late last year and soon was ridiculing Singapore's cowed journalists and citizens more concerned with their bank accounts than with participation.

But the "conscience" and "maverick" of Singapore, as he has been called, also is a booster.

"I stand in awe, genuine awe, of what they have achieved pragmatically," Marshall told The Associated Press. "It is fantastic. In all sincerity, I keep saying that, although we have pimpled on our face, we have an Olympic athlete's

upheavals as the Cultural Revolution, while the Western concept led to a vibrant civilization. Now, Marshall believes Western influence is ebbing in Asia and that China's will spread, reinforcing Singapore's authoritarian view."

He described the probable lashing of American teen-ager Michael Fay for spray-painting cars as "grossly excessive" punishment, but does not expect the government to soften its politics or laws.

Marshall intends to crusade as long as he is able. Although formally retired, he consults at an international law firm and keeps up with politics and current events by having somebody read to him each night.

"I was asked last night: 'David, why do you do it? Why do you endanger yourself? You are 86, you've done your job, just retire with dignity,'" he said.

"Am I a masochist? I don't think so. I think it is very necessary that there should be a light, some light, a different light, no matter how small, in a gathering darkness."

(AP)

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Putting teeth into dentistry for the poor

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

SOMEONE doesn't like the Dental Volunteers for Israel (DVI) clinic in Jerusalem's Mevor Ha'im quarter.

On the eve of Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars, somebody sawed off the window bars in the dental disease-prevention caravan and made off with a TV set and video recorder used for teaching children about dental health.

The computer had dental records of hundreds of children. There were also boxes of toothbrushes for the youngsters.

A total of 36,000 youngsters — aged five to 18 — all from large, disadvantaged or new-immigrant families — receive free dental care provided by volunteer dentists from abroad. They also undergo one-on-one training on the importance of preventing cavities and gum diseases and are taught to brush properly.

A study of 200 DVI "graduates" found 520 cavities; 200 required root-canal treatments on their first visit to the dentist. Nine months later, these same children had only 300 cavities and three needed root-canal work.

Two years later, the group was found to have only 60 cavities and four root-canal treatments. Their gums were also in good condition, in addition to the drastic reduction in plaque (the damaging coating of bacteria on the teeth).

DVI was founded 14 years ago by Trudi Birger, a Holocaust survivor and microbiologist by training, who devotes 14-hour days to

the project. Only those referred by the welfare authorities are eligible. Two hundred youngsters arrive each day, usually accompanied by a parent. They are given a checkup and cleaning by dentists and dental hygienists. They then move to the prevention center to hear explanations of dental hygiene.

The staff presents them with a new toothbrush, toothpaste and a bottle of disclosing solution (a red fluid that sticks to plaque and must be brushed away). They and their parents watch videos on the different food groups and how they affect the teeth.

They usually return two weeks later for a plaque test. There is almost always a drastic reduction in the amount found on their teeth, says Adina Yissachar, a Hadassah-trained counselor. The children must sign a commitment to brush their teeth at least twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste and to avoid a list of sweets (except for Shabbat).

EDUCATION programs are vital, Birger says, because in poorer communities, children are commonly given sweet syrupy drinks or tea with four teaspoons of sugar instead of milk — the parents just don't know any better.

Dr. Willem de Smalen of Holland, currently on his eighth volunteer stint at DVI, says he has seen dramatic improvement in the children's teeth over the years.

"Children who came here with a mouth full of cavities now come



Children learn to brush their teeth and get information about dental hygiene, including the use of a red dye that discloses plaque, the damaging bacteria on teeth. (Ronni Ne'eman)

for a checkup without a single cavity," he says. Like the rest of the volunteers (85 percent of them are not Jewish; most are Scandinavian or otherwise European), de Smalen pays his own airfares. Birger has small apartments where the volunteers stay during their two-week stint, and has to raise \$30,000 a month to cover DVI's expenses.

The Health Ministry's dental-services department contributes NIS 95,000 a year, and the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and Jerusalem Municipality also give some money.

"If we charged even a nominal fee for care, most parents would bring their children in only if they had a toothache," Birger says. While money is in short supply, Birger says, it is not difficult to get volunteer dentists from abroad. There is a considerable waiting list, and many of the 1,500 who have come here from 12 countries want a repeat visit.

Birger says Israeli teeth are generally in very bad condition, and that the best way to reverse this is prevention for the younger generation.

Asked to comment, Dr. Moshe Kelman, head of the ministry's dental-services department, agrees that dental health has always been low on the priority list for the government. His department has only \$2 million a year to spend on everything — including subsidization of water fluoridation projects and encouragement of dental hygiene.

Even if Kelman had a bundle of money at his disposal, he says he could not establish other clinics on the DVI model. "It requires tremendous devotion by one person, and the one-on-one prevention program is more expensive than we can afford. It costs \$40 per child." Instead, he would expand the dental-hygiene program that currently reaches about a quarter of all schoolchildren. Experts speak before whole classes of kindergarten

or elementary-school youngsters and — using dolls — shows them how to brush their teeth.

IF THE national health-insurance bill ever passes, Kelman would have more money for dental care. Dental checkups and cleaning for children is part of the proposed basket of health services.

"If I had even more money, I would insist that the elderly get free dental care and dentures. I would immediately expand fluoridation to the entire country, instead of only in the year 2000. I'd give free annual oral-cancer examinations to the elderly. I'd subsidize universal free scaling [plaque removal] once a year."

Kelman disputes statistics recently issued by the Israel Dental Association, which cited World Health Organization figures allegedly proving that dental health here is among "the worst in the world, at the level of the Philippines, Poland, Colombia, Paraguay and Chile."

Scorekeepers for hormone replacement

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

A "scorecard" will help menopausal women and their doctors decide whether to embark on hormone-replacement therapy (HRT). The scoring system was developed by gynecologists at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

Until now, modern medicine has not found a clear-cut answer to the question of who should undergo HRT. The scoring system will weigh the benefits and risks and help determine whether a woman entering menopause who does not suffer from its symptoms should undergo long-term HRT.

Dr. Amnon Brzezinski, head of the hospital's menopause clinic, says there is clear evidence that taking hormones at menopause significantly reduces the risk of osteoporosis and heart disease. There is no agreement on whether HRT increases the risk of developing breast cancer.

The scoring system takes the woman's medical record into account, including her family history, bone condition, blood pressure, weight, diet and whether she smokes; over a certain number of points, HRT is recommended.

Cards showing the point system are to be distributed among all gynecologists here.

DANGEROUS MATZA

Yeshiva students who hold temporary jobs before Pessach making matza by hand risk severe injury unless they are carefully trained by their employers, according to a report in the latest issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association.

Drs. H. Ashur and R. Mushayov, of the hand-surgery unit at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, report that over the past five years they have treated 11 people who have chopped off or pulverized their fingers and arms or suffered serious burns.

The authors warn that safety rules are not often observed and that workers — who take the jobs for a few weeks during a pre-holiday break from yeshiva — are not sufficiently careful.

The most common causes of injury are getting a hand stuck in the knives of the dough-mixing machine; cutting off fingers with the device that slices the dough; pulverizing the hand with the machine that makes holes in the matza; and burning the skin while inserting the dough in the oven or removing the baked matza.

One incident involved a 24-year-old yeshiva student whose right hand was caught in the rolling machine: four of his fingers were crushed. Doctors tried to save the hand by surgically attaching his hand under the skin of his lower abdomen, so that it could recover on its own; after a series of complicated and painful operations, use of his hand was partially restored and he was even able to hold a pen.

While the doctors say they lecture on safety at matza bakeries every year, they insist that occupational health authorities must pay more attention to prevention.

GOODBYE TO CAVITIES?

A "very promising" non-traumatic treatment for cavities that

does not involve drilling is currently being tested by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Thailand and Zimbabwe. After being cleaned manually, the cavities need only be filled with an adhesive material called glass-ionomer.

The WHO says the substance, which can be applied by quickly trained oral-health workers rather than dentists, can completely halt the progression of cavities if caught at an early stage. Glass-ionomer adheres well to the tooth and releases fluorides that "protect against any future caries." No water, drill or electricity is needed, so the technique can be administered under the most primitive conditions in the developing world, the WHO said.

The method was introduced to mark World Health Day, whose theme this year was dental health.

CANCER INFO BY MAIL

Information on cancer is only as far away as your nearest post office. The Israel Cancer Association (ICA) is supplying 36 different booklets and posters that can be ordered free at any post office. The topics range from how to quit smoking to early detection of colon cancer. Just fill out a postcard supplied by the ICA (no stamp necessary), and the material will be sent to you by return mail.

ICA director-general Miri Ziv said she chose postal branches because of their accessibility to people throughout the country and their large number of customers.

EXPERIMENTAL VACCINE FOR ADVANCED MELANOMA

The diseased cells of melanoma patients have been used to produce a vaccine claimed to reduce dramatically the recurrence of the deadliest form of melanoma, a type of skin cancer. The method could also be used to develop vaccines for other forms of cancer. Patients with an advanced form of melanoma represent a small fraction of the disease.

Dr. David Berd of Philadelphia's Thomas Jefferson University developed a vaccine made from his patients' own cancer cells and another chemical to stimulate the immune system. After three years, 70 percent of those vaccinated remained cancer-free, compared with 20 percent in patients treated with surgery alone.

Appearing before the American Association of Cancer Research recently, Berd said there is no reason why this method should not be applicable to other cancers. Berd said he believed anti-melanoma immunizations for high-risk patients could be available within the next five years, if scientists can synthesize the vaccine.

At present, the vaccine must be made from the victim's tumor cells, requiring a large tumor to produce enough vaccine, Berd said. But if laboratory scientists can identify the peptides that trigger the anti-tumor immune response in the vaccine, they can be synthesized to make a more easily reproducible vaccine.

Dr. Joseph Bertino of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York said other anti-cancer vaccines are being tried, but that Berd's results are the most impressive so far.

Hop to it with a supermodel

MOVE over Jane Fonda. Cindy Crawford, the blonde-maned supermodel, has produced *Shape Your Body* — a new exercise videotape that, thanks to a \$12-million advertising campaign, is the best-selling workout video in the US.

It's here now, with a Hebrew voice-over by local exercise expert Haya Halperin.

Crawford, 26, worked out for two years with her personal trainer, Romanian-born Radu Teodorescu (so tough in his demands for high kicks and short rests that he is known in New York as "the killer whale"), before deciding to make the tape.

Unlike conventional exercise tapes and shows, *Shape Your Body* emulates MTV, with camera shifts from color to black-and-white and between shots of Crawford exercising on a Manhattan rooftop, a Long Island beach and a brick-walled Brooklyn loft.

It isn't an aerobics tape, Crawford says, but a "toning and stretching program based on repetitions and designed to achieve better body and physical fitness.... It is exercise driven, not music driven."

There are two separate workouts and one miniworkout that should be done on alternate days. Crawford says the 100-minute videotape is suitable for teenagers, young adults and the middle-aged.

It is available in shops that sell videotapes, including bookstores.

Post Health Reporter

Caring for adults who can't say 'thanks'

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

THEY are as helpless as infants: The staff has to bathe, dress, feed and even diaper them.

There is no flash of a smile or a contented coo as a reward for devoted care; Alzheimer victims and other "complicated nursing" patients — as they are officially designated by the health authorities — have both their past and future behind them. Few are able even to nod as if to say "thank you."

Working in a geriatric facility is nearly a thankless task, but the staff in at least some institutions regard it as more than just a job.

"Some of the patients are very difficult. Some cry out every few seconds, but when I ask if they are in pain, they shake their heads," says Hava Bako, chief nurse in the complicated-nursing wing of Neveh Horim, the United Old Age Home in Jerusalem's San Simon neighborhood.

"We know they can't help themselves, and we wouldn't dream of punishing them or even complaining about it."

When a resident dies, even after weeks of being in a vegetative state, it comes as a shock and the staff becomes sad and depressed. "We hold group meetings to cope with the mourning. Staffers recall how nicely they functioned before they became helpless. Although only a minority of patients go home after successful rehabilitation, the realization that most residents will die here does not reduce the shock of loss," Bako says.

The oldest Jewish geriatric facility in Eretz Yisrael, Neveh Horim was established in 1878 in the Old City of Jerusalem. "It started as a day center, but after 10 years, overnight facilities were introduced," says Yosef Mayer, manager of the institution. Established as a nonprofit organization by religious Jews, Neveh Horim moved to Jaffa Road opposite the then-new Shaare Zedek Hospital in 1906.

Growing to hold 400 beds, the institution built a large, impres-



Shulamit Shamir (second from right), wife of the former prime minister, visits Neveh Horim, an old-age home in Jerusalem.

sive new complex off Rehov Shai Agnon in the San Simon neighborhood, where it has been located since 1967.

The number of beds was reduced to 320 to accommodate public facilities for physiotherapy, occupational therapy and other types of rehabilitation. Some 200 of the residents require the maximum of nursing care, and a third of the patients suffer from the progressive, incurable form of dementia, Alzheimer's disease.

Coping with them are 220 staffers, including nine physicians and 110 nurses and paramedical workers. Because there are medical facilities, including a lab and X-ray institute, only rarely do patients have to be sent to general hospitals for acute treatment.

Unlike some geriatric facilities that have received bad headlines in recent years, Neveh Horim is spotlessly clean and cheerful, with a well-kept garden. It has the air of a high-priced private institution, even though many of the patients were simple laborers before their retirement and come from disadvantaged neighborhoods.

MAYER SAYS he has a 10 per-

cent annual deficit out of his budget of \$6.5 million. The money comes from the Health Ministry, the welfare authorities and the various health funds, while the shortfall is covered by contributions from Joint, Eshel and special government allocations.

There is a considerable waiting list for admission, but Mayer says management will not consider expanding the number of beds to shorten the queue.

"Making it any bigger will reduce the quality of care and make it impersonal," Mayer says. "Nevertheless, we are aware of the great burden on the families. Unable to care for their relatives at a certain stage, they are desperate to send them to an institution. They try to use *protekzia* [connections] to get them in."

Employee turnover is very low, constituting only about five percent of the staff each year, Mayer says.

"We do all we can to make the staff feel that this is their other home. We have scholarships for nurses, mark every employee's birthday with a little party and a gift, organize outings and offer special loans for workers. We

think this is important psychologically, because they get few thanks from the patients."

The residents range in age from 67 to 103. Seventy percent are women, and nearly all are Orthodox or traditional, while the rest are willing to observe rules about Shabbat, holidays and kashrut. The ethnic mix is heterogeneous: There are Ashkenazim (including a number of Holocaust survivors) and Sephardim of all kinds.

"Sometimes they get into little fights, like members of any family," Mayer says, "but we know how to defuse them." Some of the residents are childless or completely alone.

"We insist that families come regularly with a little present for their relative and another for Neveh Horim — just a little thing, even a flower, so that they have a connection with the people and the place. In the case of patients who are completely alone, management gives the present instead."

Since adult diapers were provided for all those who are incontinent, Mayer says, "families are much less reluctant to come to visit. There is no bad smell. The

diapers are expensive, but they're very much worth the cost."

Neveh Horim does not collect directly from the family: the Health Ministry provides a referral slip and it collects fees from the family, depending on the level of necessary care and the family's income. The health funds cover part of the cost, depending on the medical condition of the resident.

Mayer, who came here as a child from Germany, has been at Neveh Horim for 18 years. Previously, he worked as a supervisor of hospital administration for the Health Ministry.

"There is a great need for a national health-insurance law," Mayer says. "Expanded geriatric services must be fully included in the basket of health services covered by the bill."

Growing old, he concludes, need not be frightening.

"Only 5 percent of people over the age of 65 need inpatient geriatric care. Most people remain independent at that age. Over 80, the percentage, of course, is significantly higher, but the healthier we can keep the elderly, the less likely they are to need a place like this."

Stepping machines provide excellent aerobic exercise — if you use them

Rx FOR READERS

POST HEALTH REPORTER

I am a rather sedentary woman of 35 who would like to do some exercise at home. I've seen advertisements for stepper machines, which give the feeling of walking up stairs. Does a stepper provide good exercise? Does it put less strain on knees than running? Should I have handles for the machine? How does it compare to an exercise bike? P.T., Katsrin.

Dr. Yoni Yarom, a sports-medicine expert at the Wingate Institute

for Physical Education in Netanya, replies:

Stepping machines do provide very good aerobic exercise — if you use them. Steppers require users to combine a walking motion with that of climbing stairs. They put less strain on the joints than running. Exercise bicycles are also good, but steppers exercise a larger number of body muscles. If you have a weight or joint problem, sitting down on a stationary bicycle will probably be easier than using a stepper.

At your age, you should gradually work yourself up to a heart-beat of 135 to 145 per minute.

Using a stepper without handles for the arms provides more exercise, but users usually find handles more comfortable as they have something to lean on. The larger, more expensive machines are more stable and have computerization.

However, if you are the type who gets bored easily and can't stick to a regimen, you are unlikely to use the machine as often as you should.

I admit it; I'm a worrywart. I am in my early 40s, and I needed some hip X-rays taken recently; one of them didn't come out prop-

erly. The technician told me I had to have that shot retaken. I have had lots of X-rays, especially during my childhood, and hate the thought of being exposed to any extra radiation. I have already had a mammogram and a dental X-ray this year. Is there a "safe" number of X-rays a person can have in any given period? And could the technician doing the X-ray inadvertently expose patients to more radiation than necessary? J.M., Jerusalem

Prof. Jacob Bar-Ziv, head of the X-ray institute at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, answers:

Everyone is exposed to cosmic radiation from the sun throughout his or her lifetime. That combines in a cumulative way with the amount of radiation to which we are exposed during X-rays. Certainly, people should not have X-rays done if they don't need them. But the amount of radiation absorbed by the body over a period of years amounts to only a few RADs and is harmless, even if you have undergone the number of X-rays that you report.

It would begin to be dangerous only if you were pregnant or were x-rayed every day for some 200 days in a row. By contrast, cancer

patients who undergo radiotherapy are exposed to hundreds or thousands of RADs of radiation in one treatment.

X-ray machines used when you were a child did not emit significantly more radiation than machines do today. Today's mammography machines do produce much less radiation than the old models.

Don't worry about unintentional overexposure. It's impossible for diagnostic X-ray machines to produce the large amounts of radiation used in radiotherapy; if they could, we could save the hundreds of thousands of shekels that radio-

therapy machines cost and just use diagnostic X-ray devices, which cost much less.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

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Leaving Gaza

It has become so fashionable and "politically correct" to think of Gaza as a shameful cesspool for whose existence Israel must be held responsible that even Israelis have come to believe this myth. And now that most of the district is being relinquished, many Israelis sigh with relief - not only because soldiers will no longer have to chase stone-throwing children in tortuous alleys, but because the stigma of responsibility for that odious "black hole" will no longer be Israel's.

Many of these breast-beaters must have been surprised by a small news item yesterday, in which the director-general of the Friends of the Open University, Yissachar Goldrat, was quoted as saying "Gaza Arabs are the most educated among Arab societies in the Middle East, with about 97% of the young men high school graduates and 76% of the young women literate." This is, of course, a direct result of the Israeli "occupation." Indeed, Israel can be proud of the role it has played in Gaza over the past 27 years.

The most common misconception about Gaza is that it is a large refugee camp, and "one of the most densely populated areas in the world." But in fact Gaza's density is lower than that of most cities. (It is one-twentieth the density of Cairo, for example.) Sixty percent of Gazans (among them many millionaires) live in urban centers, and 12 percent in villages. Only 25 percent live in shanty towns known as refugee camps. And these "camps" would have been emptied long ago had the PLO not opposed Israel's plans to build decent housing for their inhabitants.

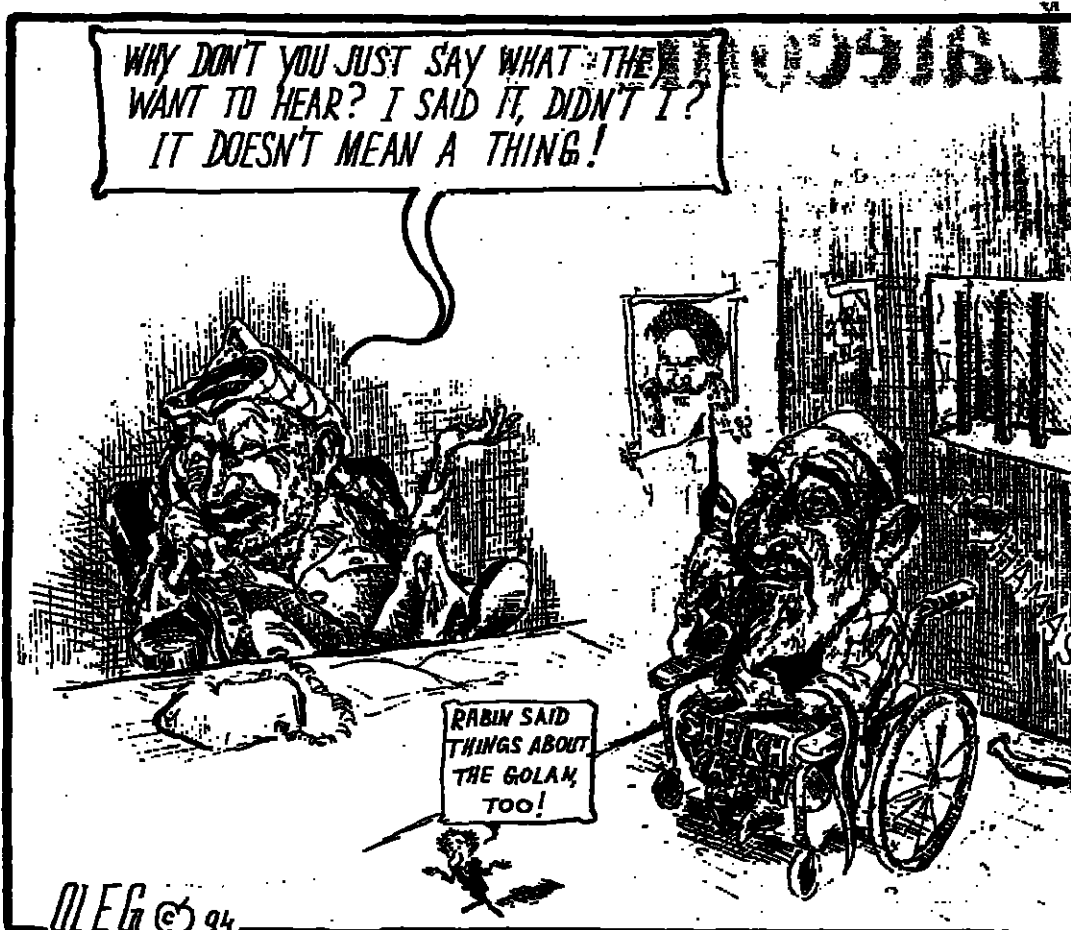
Unfortunately, the PLO received the world community's active support in its callous exploitation of the refugees' plight. Under Arab pressure, the UN refugee agency UNRWA dissuaded camp-dwellers from moving into Israeli-provided housing by ruling that they would forfeit welfare benefits such as rent, food and clothing if they left the camps. Yet Israel still managed to build nine residential projects in Gaza, in which more than 70,000 former camp residents live, as well as bring electricity to 98.9 percent of all Gaza households and running water to 99.7 percent.

Thanks to Israeli medical programs, the mortality rate of 86 babies per thousand live births in 1968 has declined to 26 per thousand in 1990. (According to Unicef, in 1987 infant mortality in Egypt was 87, in Iraq 70 and in Jordan 45.) Childhood diseases, including polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and measles, have been virtually eradicated. Diseases which once caused permanent blindness in scores of children every year have yielded to Israeli medicine.

As the Israeli administration leaves, it may be useful to think of what Gazans may expect. Before 1967, the area was ruled by the Egyptians, who treated Gaza as a large prison camp. One of the first actions of the Egyptian military government was to impose a curfew from 9 p.m. to dawn. Violators were put to death. Highways were closed to all but military traffic after dusk. Strict censorship was imposed, and no local newspapers were allowed to publish. Gazans were denied Egyptian citizenship and were not permitted to work in Egypt. The most elementary of human rights were denied. The medical infrastructure was less than rudimentary.

The world's assumption is that under Palestinian rule, and with the world's help, Gaza will flourish. But Gaza cannot even retain its current standard of living without sending tens of thousands to work in Israel. Nor is it clear how disciplined its population will be once the Israeli presence disappears. Yesterday, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak said he wanted the IDF out of the district as quickly as possible because he could not predict an orderly transfer of power.

Regardless of what they think of the wisdom of leaving Gaza, Israelis must hope that its inhabitants will thrive, and live in peace with each other. Turnover in Gaza, no matter how many fences surround the district, must inevitably affect Israel. But if past performance of Arab rule - including the PLO's own rule in Lebanon - is any indication, Gazans may yet look back at Israel's occupation with wistful nostalgia.



No give on the Golan

YOSEF BEN-AHARON

IN one of our meetings with Edward Djerejian in his former capacity as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, he told me that Syria's President Hafez Assad is a man of his word.

"Once he makes a commitment, he will keep it," said Djerejian, now the US ambassador to Israel. "Look at the way he has kept the cease-fire on the Golan all these years."

I was, I admit, so taken aback by Djerejian's fierce defense of Assad's credibility that I failed to challenge his statement. But now, with the coming phase in the process placing the question of Assad's word at the top of the agenda, it is worthwhile taking a look at the Syrian president's record.

Ambassador Muwafiq Allaf, who continues to head the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, once made the same reference to his country's meticulous record on the cease-fire. But he was very upset when I suggested that the peace and quiet on the Golan was probably a result of our army's deployment on Mt. Hermon, dominating the entire area up to the outskirts of Damascus, and to our capacity to respond quickly and effectively to any Syrian violation of the cease-fire.

This is the immense difference between the current situation and pre-1967.

At that time, the Syrian army was entrenched on the edge of the precipice overlooking the valley around the Kinneret. Taking full advantage of its almost impregnable stronghold on the Golan, it poured artillery and sniper fire onto the Israelis below, whenever tension arose between the two sides.

More surprising is Djerejian's deference to the credibility of one of the most absolute and ruthless dictators of our time. Assad is responsible to no one but himself.

He can change his mind and policy at any moment and impose his will on his people.

Yes, Assad can keep his word - as long as it serves his interests. The plight of the Syrian Jewish community had been raised with Assad dozens of times during his

Assad is astute in defending his own interests. Israel ought to follow his example

presidency. Most times, he rejected any intimation that Syrian Jews suffered any discrimination.

In 1979, he was pressed by president Jimmy Carter to permit the exit of a couple of hundred Jewish women who could not marry for lack of single men in the community. Assad promised. He let a dozen women leave, then closed the door.

Over the following decade, he permitted a very small trickle of Jews to leave, after repeated appeals. Only in 1992, with a change in the international climate on the right of emigration and under pressure from both the US and Israel during the negotiations, Assad finally relented and permitted the Jews to leave.

ASSAD'S CONDUCT with regard to the tragic plight of Lebanon is replete with broken promises and violated undertakings. He has declared his respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity any number of times.

Yet Lebanon today is almost

totally under the heel of Syrian military occupation. Policy decisions by its government are dictated by Damascus.

Under the 1989 Taif agreement, Syria was obligated to begin withdrawing its military forces from Beirut within two years, and, subsequently, from other parts of the country. To this day, Syrian forces are deployed inside the Lebanese capital, and Lebanese protests are smothered by the brutal presence of the Syrian army.

Assad's example in the conduct of international relations was strikingly emulated by his delegation in the peace talks with Israel.

Although all Israel delegation members had studied Syria's record, we were struck by the Syrians' capacity to tailor the "facts" in a way that served their case, no matter how remote they were from reality.

Whenever we presented neutral documentation to prove a point, Ambassador Allaf would respond that we were indulging in propaganda instead of attending to the problem of how to make peace.

It is not Assad's word or credibility that can provide us with a dependable and lasting settlement with Syria.

Assad sent his representatives to Madrid to negotiate with us knowing that he was dealing with a government that was committed to retaining the Golan Heights under any agreement. He sent them because it served his interests.

Israel, likewise, should negotiate with a view to defending its own interests and - above all - ensuring its national security through the retention of its control of the Golan Heights.

The writer was head of Israel's delegation to the peace talks with Syria under the previous government.

I met Mandela

DAN PATTIR

I was about to conclude my recent tour of South Africa without achieving one of my goals: to become the first Israeli journalist to interview Nelson Mandela.

I had been told that I stood no chance of being able to meet the leader of the African National Congress, but very shortly before checking out of my hotel, I was greeted by Mandela, who arrived at the lobby and asked for me.

He was courteous, charming and very straightforward. He made the unusual gesture of coming to greet me because he was interested in meeting an Israeli journalist.

In spite of his tight schedule, he took the time to share his views and expectations on developments in South Africa - which were completely different from the ones I had heard from some other ANC leaders.

He was open-minded, visionary and realistic at the same time. He came across as a leader and statesman who was trying hard to win the trust of the West and the confidence of its political and economic leadership. It seemed to me that Israel and the Jewish communities in South Africa, the US and Europe all had a place in his order of priorities.

Some excerpts from my notes of the interview:

He asked: 'Can't I be a goodwill envoy between Israel and the Palestinians?'

• Attitude toward Israel: "...I want to emphasize that I see Israel as an independent sovereign state with durable and secure borders... I told this to PLO chief Arafat and Libyan leader Gaddafi as well... I am very eager to see real progress in the peace process between you and the Palestinians... I would be very happy to see reconciliation taking place between you and them... no, it is not a condition for developing better understanding, and better relations between you and us..."

• Attitude toward the Middle East: "...We do hope that the Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation will be attained. Our movement hasn't formalized a special policy on the Middle East, but its principal positions that I value are very clear... I have clarified to Arab leaders that our attitudes toward Israel won't be contingent upon our relations with others... But you are wrong when you expect others to see your enemies ultimately as their enemies as well..."

"I can understand your position against those countries which negate your right to exist... we maintain good relations with all those countries, in Africa, including Libya, and elsewhere, who have helped us in our struggle all those years..."

"You should know that some African states, including Libya, have provided us during our lengthy struggle, with over \$50 million..."

• Relations between South Africa and Israel: "...I don't see any reason for impairing the relations between South Africa and Israel... there is no basis for fears of it, neither by you nor by your friends... not now and not in the future... on the contrary, when we'll be in the position of influencing and decision-making, my position is that the relations between our two countries will be good, stable and useful..."

"My message is that I am looking for good relations. I value what has been done so far toward peace in your region and support further efforts in this direction..."

• Visiting Israel: "...Of course, I shall visit... It is my desire and it is in my planning, but I don't know exactly when... I have a standing invitation from your government as of the end of 1992, and it has been renewed..."

• Relations with Jewish community in South Africa: "...I have many good friends in the Jewish community in South Africa... I have very friendly feelings toward the entire Jewish community in my country... I have told this to the leaders of the Jewish community in the United States, for which I have great appreciation..."

• Involvement in the Middle East: "...Why don't you use me? Can't I be an envoy of goodwill between you and the Palestinians?... It is an important mission... I shall be doing it gladly..."

As Nelson Mandela prepares to be sworn in as the president of the Republic of South Africa, it is to be hoped that he will carry out these ideas relating to the nature and substance of his ties with Israel, the Jewish community and the Middle East.

The writer was press secretary and media adviser to prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RELIGIOUS ZIONISTS

Sir, - Before Isi Leibler (April 10) begins to speak in the name of "the silent majority of traditional religious Zionists," I suggest that he first listen to what religious Zionists have to say. I invite him to spend a few days in Kiryat Ata (far from the so-called settlements). Here he would find that religious Zionists are "in a state of near-despair," but not for the reasons he presents. This despair is a consequence of the lack of a sufficiently activist NRP policy in opposing the Rabin government.

Due to this lack of leadership, grass-roots ad-hoc groups have sprung up here and across the country (from the silent majority which Mr. Leibler purports to represent). These groups (and not the formal NRP local bureaucrats) have been organizing the demonstrations at intersections, calling parlor meetings, etc. Although inexperienced, disorganized and without funds, these groups have succeeded in bringing tens of thousands of religious Zionists into the streets. If Mr. Leibler spoke to the demonstrators, he would find that the vast majority have never previously taken part in political activity, that they represent a wide spectrum of traditional religious

Zionist opinion and include many previous Meimad supporters.

Mr. Leibler feels that the NRP has left the "political mainstream," a term he never defines. What he really means is clarified by his call for the NRP to join the government. Now it is clear: the labor party is his "mainstream." In the mid-70's, when Shimon Peres could say that settlements on the western slopes of the hills of Samaria and Judea would save us from the ignominy of the narrow waist of Israel or could compare a settlement freeze with the infamous British White Paper, the Labor party was in the political mainstream of the Zionist movement. At that time, it could be and was supported by religious Zionists. Today it is not the religious Zionists who have moved out of the Zionist mainstream, but rather the Labor party which has moved so far that it is out of sight of Zionism. The only way that the NRP could join this government is if Labor would do a complete about-face. Otherwise, the silent majority of religious Zionists would abandon the NRP in droves.

DR. BENJAMIN REISER
Kiryat Ata.

RELIGIOUS CONFESSION

Sir, - Under the headline "Goldstein's goodbye note" (April 11), you report that "The text of a note found in Baruch Goldstein's pocket was released yesterday by the commission of inquiry." The note, which was typed in Hebrew, reads as follows: "With God's help. Text of a confession from the bridge of life. I thank you... I beseech you, make me well..." This has been mistakenly identified by you as a goodbye note formulated by Dr. Goldstein. In fact, it is instead the text, word for word, of a religious confession and prayer (vidui) formulated centuries ago (attributed to Nahmanides) for use by terminally ill Jewish patients. It is to be recited (with the help of the rabbi, doctor or other attendant) by or for a person who is about to die of his illness; the patient requests a recovery from the illness, and, if not, atonement for this life's sins and to pass on to life in the next world. The text appears in full in volume 1, page 35, of the classic book *Gesher Hachaim* ("Bridge of Life") by Rabbi Y.M. Tockchinski.

Thus, this is not Goldstein's goodbye note but no more nor less than the "Text of a Confession from the book *Gesher Hachaim*." It

is not surprising that such a text would be carried by a Jewish doctor in order to administer this last ritual of confession to his dying patients. In these tragic times, when Arab terror is a daily occurrence and fatal traffic accidents are common, is it not logical for a physician such as Dr. Goldstein to be prepared to administer this final rite to his patients in emergencies? This note is certainly not Goldstein's personal confession for any coming act. The conclusion that this was a goodbye note, thereby indicating Goldstein to be a premeditated murderer, seems to be either uninformed or irresponsible.

Let it be clear that I condemn the killing of any innocent persons, be they Arab or Jew. However, because the consequences of the conclusions of the commission of inquiry are serious and as the killer is not before us to tell his story or to defend himself, one must expect the media to be extremely cautious, knowledgeable and totally accurate in evaluating this piece of evidence, as well as all the other evidence.

Dr. YEHUDA SONNENBLICK
Jerusalem.

POLITICAL HONESTY

Sir, - In your editorial "Dismantling settlements" (April 24), you speak about the possible forced transfer of 130,000 residents from the territories in exchange for peace and prosperity. I wonder why you don't mention in this connection the number of 300,000 residents, who live in the "occupied" territories - including the suburbs of Jerusalem? Why do we think that peace and prosperity will reign in Israel before the Arabs get back those parts of Jerusalem, built up after the '67 war in areas which are considered by the Arabs (and the UN) "occupied territories"?

The fact that Jerusalem was annexed by the Israeli government has no meaning whatsoever in the eyes of the Palestinians, just as the official annexation of the Golan Heights plays no role in our negotiations with Syria.

It is obviously much easier to speak about the evacuation of 130,000 "settlers" - most of them belonging to the much criticized religious and national elements of our society, and considered an obstacle to peace - than to cope with the possible forced exodus of 300,000 people who built their homes without any political ideology in the suburbs of Jerusalem such as Neveh Ya'acov, Pisgat Ze'ev, Gilo, Ramot, etc.

In political discussions on the most essential questions of our survival, there is no place for half-truths; a sense of reality is a vital requirement. The Arabs say again and again that without Jerusalem, there will be no peace, and it is just a question of intellectual and political honesty, to evaluate the situation realistically and to name the full price for any political "settlement" which might lead to a peace agreement (at least on paper...)

GABRIEL H. COHN
Jerusalem.

PEACE NOW

Sir, - Through the years and more recently, Arab bloody terrorism has killed, unfortunately, many Israeli men, women, and children. Not once, in my memory, did Peace Now demonstrate against Arab terrorism. This is very significant but perhaps not so puzzling.

Not so puzzling since Peace Now and various leftist factions, in my view, were and are instrumental in encouraging Palestinian intransigence and even outright rebellion. Their recent massive demonstration in Tel Aviv with Palestinian-flag-waving Arabs was very sad indeed.

LEO POLLACK
Brooklyn, N.Y.

The tale of two countries

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

FOR many years, Israel and South Africa were viewed as semi-outcasts in the international arena. South Africa because of its policy of apartheid and oppression of the black majority, Israel because of its apparent refusal to end its occupation of close to two million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and its policy of crawling annexation.

It is certainly a coincidence that both countries got governments determined to effect all-encompassing change at around the same time. In both cases international pressure undoubtedly played a role - but it was not the only factor.

Both the government of F.W. de Klerk and that of Yitzhak Rabin understood that though the status quo might seem relatively cozy and familiar and the alternatives frightening and full of question marks, it was just a question of time before both situations exploded.

De Klerk, realizing that apartheid couldn't last forever and that the longer reforms were delayed the higher the cost the whites would be called upon to pay, decided to embark on a process which would rapidly lead to majority rule in South Africa.

Yitzhak Rabin, realizing that half measures - such as permanent autonomy with continued Israeli sovereignty - were nothing but empty slogans, decided to embark on a staged process which would eventually lead to Israeli withdrawal from most of the territories occupied during the Six Day War.

Both whites in South Africa and Jews in Israel will not find it easy to adjust to the new situation. Both will have to get accustomed to viewing a people they used to rule by force of arms as equal partners.

Both have been called upon to give up tangible assets in return

for benefits no one can ensure will actually materialize. Both will find it more difficult than in the past to defend themselves against outbursts of violence, which, at least in the immediate future, are likely to continue.

The relationship between Israel and South Africa was once an unholy alliance between pariah states

HOWEVER, Israel's situation on the eve of the signing of the "Gaza/Jericho First" agreement appears much more promising than that of South Africa's, which has just held its first-ever democratic elections.

Though in South Africa whites will share power with blacks and their rights have been guaranteed (at least in the early stages of the new regime), they will have to get used to minority status and to contributing a much greater share of their wealth to the economic enhancement and improved welfare of the black majority. For many whites, the new reality might very rapidly become unbearable, even if relative peace is preserved.

In Israel, the new reality that emerges after the peace process is completed will undoubtedly be painful to many for ideological and/or religious reasons. But the daily lives of most Israelis will not be affected.

Since both the Israeli government and the Palestinian leader-

ship are aiming at physical separation - except for those Israelis who might choose to remain in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip after the permanent solution is implemented - the Jews will remain as they are today: the ruling majority within the sovereign territory of Israel, and in full control of their own destiny.

Furthermore, economically speaking, the country and the whole of its population stand to gain. Even though Israel will have to continue allocating a significant portion of its budget for defense even after permanent peace is reached with the Palestinians, all expenditures resulting from the occupation and the need to maintain peace and order in the territories will be eliminated.

Israel is already starting to feel the economic benefits of peace resulting from the de facto relaxation in the implementation of the Arab boycott and the growing interest in the country by foreign investors who believe the Middle East is on the threshold of a new era of peace.

One thing might perhaps be said with certainty: As South Africa enters a new phase and Israel embarks upon a new relationship with the Palestinians and the Arab world, relations between the two countries will never return to what they were in their heyday - between 1974 (when most of the black African states broke relations with Israel) and 1987 (when Israel joined the international sanctions against South Africa).

The special relationship between Israel and South Africa was an unholy alliance between pariah states. We should be grateful that the circumstances which made this relationship so attractive and necessary in the past no longer exist.

The writer is editor of the Labor movement monthly, Spectrum.

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MAY 1, 1994

PERSPECTIVE

REVIEW OF COMMENTARY AND HUMOR WEEKLY

The best comic strips, columnists and editorial cartoons gathered for you from major international press syndicates

Flora Lewis

The Nostalgia For Fear

Paris - Just as the utmost limits of international toleration were reached, the Bosnian Serbs appear to have let go of a thoroughly devastated Gorazde. Once again, their wily brinksmanship has achieved key aims and left them to calculate what they can get away with next time.

But grave damage has already been done, not only to the victims and their town, but to the whole network of states and international institutions charged with making some effort at running the world rationally. More and more, people are wondering whether it's any use entrusting the United Nations, NATO, Europe, the U.S., and Russia with the task of order, given the way they are functioning.

Last week, TV news quite matter-of-factly displayed how easy they are to defy. After being kept waiting around Sarajevo airport for five days, a convoy of armored U.N. vehicles finally got permission from Bosnian Serb leaders to proceed to beleaguered Gorazde with observers and medical personnel.

But about twenty miles from their goal, a couple of hundred women were sent to block the road, an outrageously transparent excuse to break the leaders' word. The blue berets, bewildered, climbed down and stared helplessly at the little crowd. Their command ordered a U-turn back to Sarajevo. The women blocked the retreat as well. After long negotiation, to prove the U.N. is at the mercy of the aggressors, they were allowed to give up and go away.

I was watching this cat and mouse game, the world organization and its powers playing mouse, with a visiting Russian couple. The man, really a gentle, kind, intelligent person, exploded in anger.

"This is what you're western liberal democracy leads to, this is the result of your foolishness," he said. "You take away fear and the whole world goes to pot. Nothing else can make it work. Bomb Belgrade, kill 50,000, and that would be the end of such nonsense."

His wife, a sprightly, bubbly editor with one of those tragic Soviet family stories, disagreed. "We lived our whole lives with fear, so deep we didn't even know how totally we submitted until a few years ago," she said. "That's not the way, nothing good comes of it."

Of course, there are all kinds of fears, fear of humiliation, fear of looking ridiculous, fear of hurting someone, fear of being caught, dishonored and perhaps punished, and they do shape the way people behave. But this was about fear of brute force, impotent fear of being overwhelmed, fear of certain, terrible pain as the prime mover of societies. Is that all there is to rely on?

Freedom, the rule of law, civic decency is about liberation from that kind of fear. We argued whether sustaining it didn't have to mean accepting dictatorship. The pained argument dividing Americans on the sentence of caning a juvenile vandal in Singapore is over whether an orderly, safe society justifies, indeed requires, discipline derived from a high level of that fear.

International society has no constituted police force or system of justice. The various organizations it has developed are an attempt to build some rules of state behavior based on widespread consent, recognition of mutual benefit in settling disputes without open conflict. That attempt is being undermined by events, especially in Bosnia, but also Rwanda, Somalia and elsewhere.

It leads to the shocking urge to call for restoration of mortal fear as the only available alternative. This is worse than war, it is the abandonment of the very principles which democracies — usually reluctantly — wage war to defend. It is a belief that human beings are so inevitably, incorrigibly perverse that they can find no other way to organize their societies and their world.

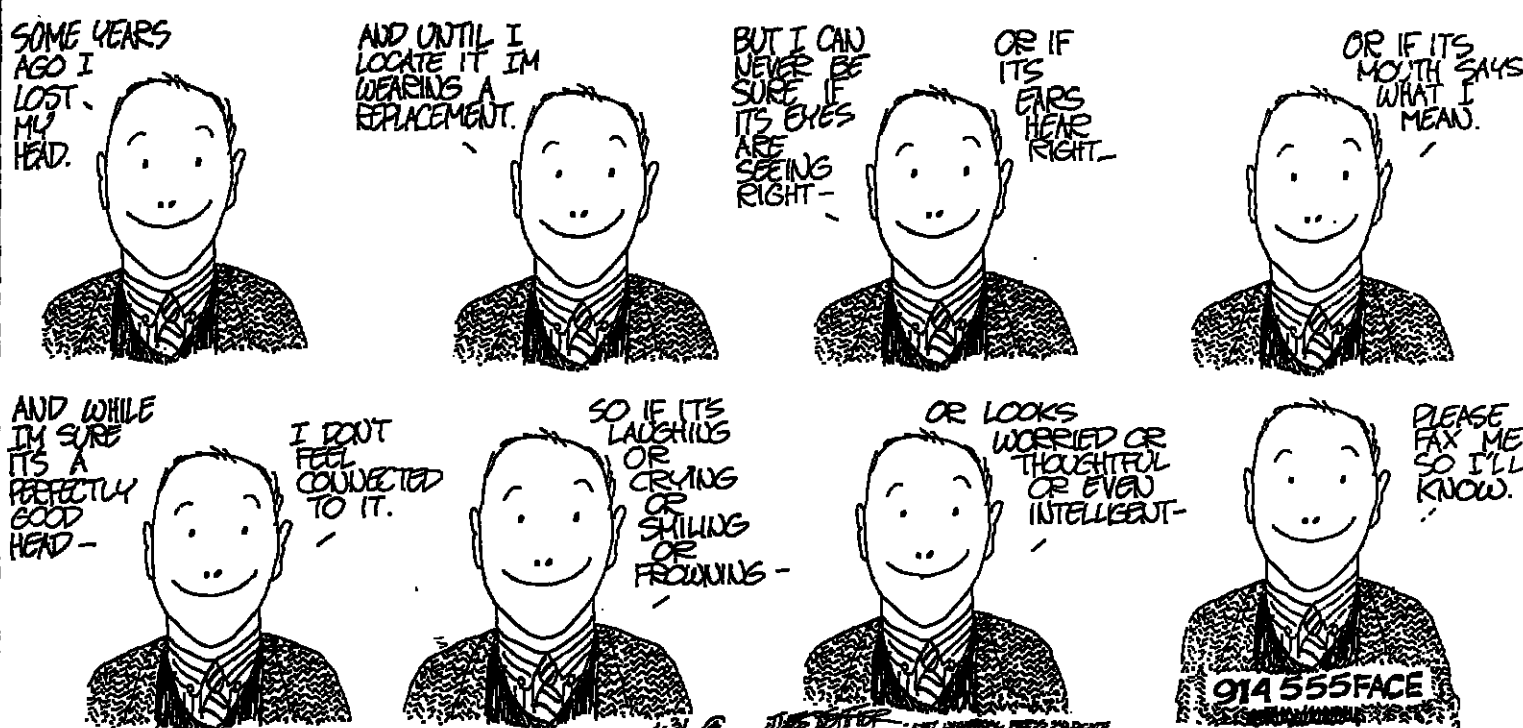
What an exit from the global fears inspired by the cold war. It challenges the essential idea of democracy, that people are able to govern themselves more or less acceptably, in a way that totalitarians never managed to achieve.

This is what is at stake now as leaders herald their first little steps — a European, Russian, American, U.N. contact group — to "coordinate" a policy on Yugoslavia. They have come near to losing what they call "credibility," a way of saying trust in their wisdom and their will to use human capacity for reasons to beat back encroachments of the eternal human jungle.

There is a cost. The rule of law isn't self-generating and it always requires enforcement. But if they can't offer anything else, including joint resolve on military action, the nostalgia for total fear as the one effective means of keeping order will engulf all hopes.

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War on the Tube

Television brings war into our living rooms. That's the conventional wisdom. And so, we might be tempted to believe that news broadcasts with grisly footage from Bosnia or Rwanda make warfare real to us.

But the room where we sit in front of a TV set could hardly be farther from the realities of a war zone.

A war "is among the biggest things that can ever happen to a nation or people, devastating families, blasting away the roofs and walls," says media critic Mark Crispin Miller. But at home "we see it compressed and miniaturized on a sturdy little piece of furniture, which stands and shines at the very center of our household."

There's never any need to dig shrapnel out of the sofa. And while television "may confront us with the facts of death, bereavement, mutilation, it immediately cancels out the memory of that suffering, replacing its own pictures of despair with a commercial, upbeat and inexhaustibly bright."

But such limitations of the TV-viewing experience are only part of the problem with relying on television to understand the wars of the world. A bigger impediment is that some wars don't make it to the shimmering little box at all.

We're likely to assume that television is showing us the most horrendous and "important" wars. Yet news broadcasts are highly selective, for reasons that include political and racial biases.

Bloody events in Bosnia, for instance, have frequently dominated news programs. But we rarely hear a word, or see even a few seconds of videotape, about the war in Angola — where the victims are black Africans, and the United States government bears major responsibility for the carnage.

The rebel force known as Unita — long backed by U.S. officials who supplied massive aid — lost an international-

ally-supervised election to Angola's ruling party 19 months ago. Immediately, Unita launched a new military offensive. Since then, half a million Angolans have died, according to the British magazine *New Statesman*.

As the magazine reported in March, the human suffering is immense in Angola. "Inexorably, month after month since the elections in September 1992, Unita's reign of terror has worsened, outstripping in horror the familiar scenes of starvation and factional or ethnic killing in Somalia, Liberia, Sudan, or Burundi. Yet this is a war the international community had the power to prevent."

The Unita killers owe a great deal to Western support. "First the Portuguese

viewed dozens of displaced peasants who described attacks on their villages by Unita, kidnapping of young men and boys, looting, beatings, and killings, while in hospital beds the rows of mutilated women bore witness to the mining of their fields. Defectors from Unita told more chilling stories of mass rallies at the headquarters in Jamba where women were burned alive as witches. These were not stories the outside world wanted to hear about Unita, whose leader was regularly received at the White House."

The *New Statesman* article concludes: "Angola has been destroyed by Unita leader Jonas Savimbi's determination to take by force the power successive United States administrations

Why don't we see Angola on the evening news? Or on the front pages? Why have we seen so many stories about Sarajevo and Gorazde, but none about the horrible sieges of Angolan cities like Cuito, Huambo and Malange?

For much the same reason that we rarely get any news about East Timor. Since December 1975, when Indonesia invaded that island nation and began to slaughter the native population, a protracted holocaust has been underway. Some 200,000 Timorese — a third of the entire population — have died at the hands of the occupiers.

The murderous Indonesian regime, allied with the U.S. government, has used American aircraft and other military aid to do the killing. Despite the U.S.

link — or perhaps because of it — we haven't seen the massacres in East Timor on our TV screens.

We see news reports about the Kurds inside Iraq, suffering from the brutality of the Iraqi regime. But we rarely get news of the Kurds inside Turkey, suffering from the brutality of the Turkish regime.

Even when thousands of Turkish troops invaded northern Iraq to attack Kurdish foes, as they did in mid-April, the event gets virtually no U.S. media coverage. Can you imagine the news coverage if Iraqi troops had invaded Turkey (a close U.S. ally) in pursuit of Kurdish

guerrillas?

What we see on television only gives us fleeting glimpses of war. And the selectivity of those glimpses renders some victims invisible, their anguish ignored. Conveniently.

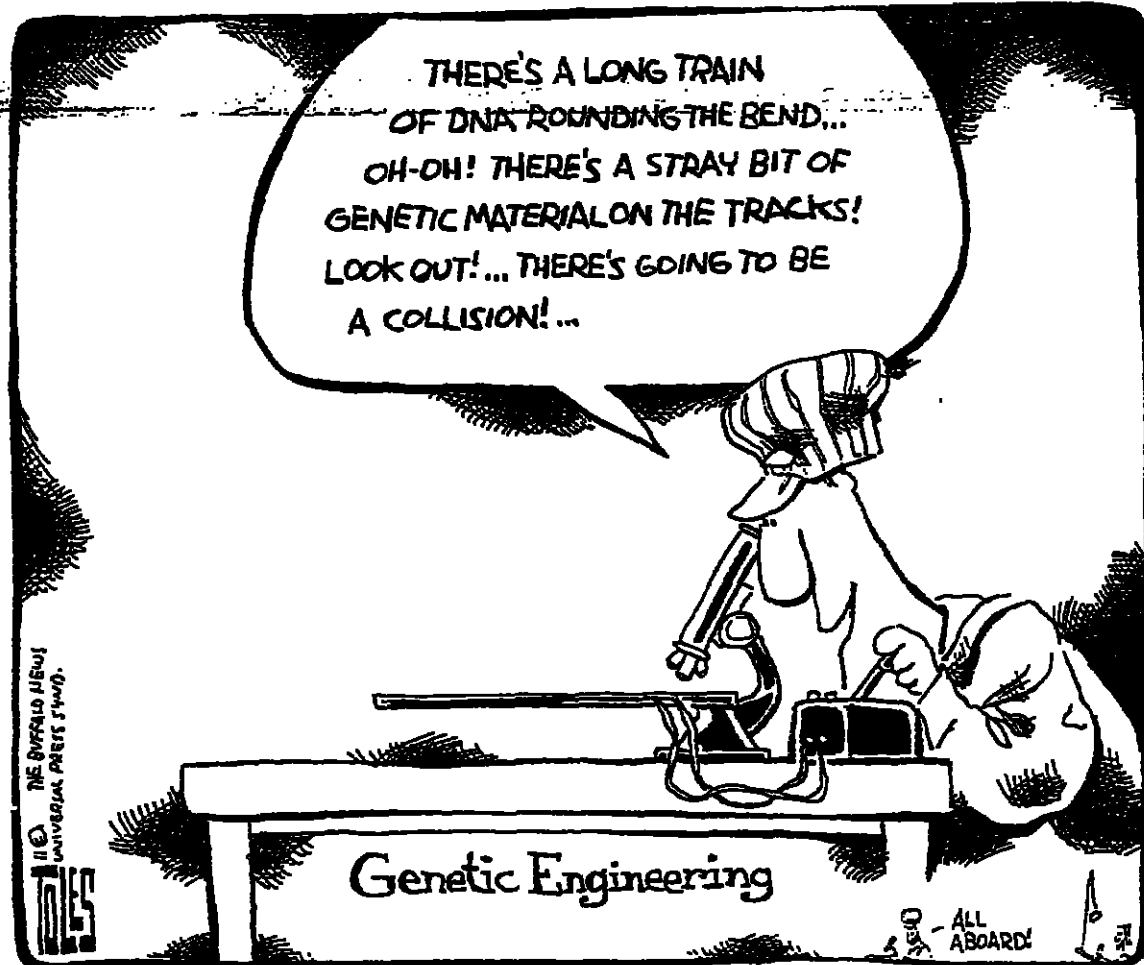
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PERSPECTIVE

Editor:
Guy Bernfield

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EDITORIAL ART



WASHINGTON



Mark Alan Stamaty

Kamchatka Postcard

Out of It

Last night, like most nights, I lay on my narrow Soviet bed until 4 a.m., when I was jolted awake by the sound of drunken Korean mafiosi arguing under my bedroom window. Today, I jumped for a snowbank to avoid a furbattled Russian hurtling gleefully down Leninskaya Street in his first car — a \$2,000 used Mazda that still sports the logo of a Tokyo travel agency. In the central market, grandmothers in flowered shawls and felt boots sang the virtues of "little pirog, hot and fresh" while flinty blondes hawked Chinese dog-fur coats and Bulgarian chardonnay. My plastic shopping bag read: "In a sign of friendship from the Japanese people." It cost 600 rubles.

This is not how I had imagined life in Kamchatka, the mountainous 900-mile-long peninsula north of Japan that until 1991 was one of the last outposts of the Soviet empire. My thoughts ran more to tossing down vodka and smoked salmon after skiing with broad-shouldered guys named Kostya or Kolya. But then, this is not how anyone imagined life in post-Communist Russia. Every day is an improvisation; it's hard to know if the theme is "free at last" or "free to be just another Third-World backwater."

The disorientation is especially acute here in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, a city of 350,000 on a volcano-rimmed bay off the North Pacific. A frontier of the Russian empire since Vitus Bering set sail from Avacha Bay to discover Alaska in 1749, Petropavlovsk has been closed to Westerners for most of this century; it is a storage site for Soviet nuclear submarines and medium-range missiles. When I first arrived in April 1991 it was innocent and chaste — a Soviet Shangri-la that lured residents with fat government paychecks and a spectacular landscape inhabited by giant grizzly bears and trophy-sized trout. Today, the perks are gone, but the isolation remains. You may no longer need a special propiska stamped in your passport to come here, but Moscow is still nine time zones away. Add to that the fact that parts of the twentieth century have passed Kamchatka by and we're talking Brigadoon with kimchi and borscht.

My students at the Kamchatka State Pedagogical Institute, where I teach journalism, have heard no Bob Dylan songs recorded before 1988. They have read no American authors more recent than Jack London and Ernest Hemingway. They know Julia Roberts but not Lyle Lovett. They know Madonna and Charles Barkley, but they've never heard of Solidarity or Vaclav Havel. Now, however, the frontier is opening up to the world. The soap opera

"Santa Barbara" and its Mexican counterpart, "Simply Maria," remain wildly popular, and pirated American movies (*The Firm*, *Rambling Rose*) appear on local T.V. with increasing regularity. Last fall, "Twin Peaks" materialized in the middle of a particularly frightening spate of earthquakes. Its casual cruelty, dubbed into Russian, seemed an appropriate accompaniment to watching the Stalinist-era walls shudder.

As one of Kamchatka's four resident Americans (counting two Bahá'í missionaries and a business instructor from Alaska), I can't help thinking that the changes are making life better. My students at the Ped-Institute are publishing the peninsula's first English-language newspaper using laser printers and photocopyers cadged around town. (Four years ago it was illegal to own a photocopier.) Many families I know have cars; some have two. (Cars and apartments are the only investments that offer any hedge against 900 percent inflation.) We have no CNN or *Newsweek*, but I'm on the Internet through the local post office. Lemons, impossible to find six months ago, are suddenly widely available. Just last week two shells appeared at the Petropavlovsk department store, helpfully labeled "blini." They flew off the shelves, as did the Lipton onion soup mix, the Western Family brownie mix and the Rosarita refried beans — all miraculous conveniences in a country where putting supper on the table usually starts with growing the potatoes.

Still, no one can figure out how a free-market consumer economy works in conjunction with a Soviet wage scale. Two hundred dollars a month is not considered a bad wage for a university graduate; my Ped-Institute colleagues all make less than \$100 per month (when they get paid at all). In the past Moscow kept Kamchatka and other outposts well subsidized, providing workers with double salaries and tickets for long vacations at the Black Sea. Today, the outposts seem to have been forgotten; not infrequently, the local government runs out of cash. At Christmas we endured rolling power blackouts because the army hadn't paid its electric bill to the city of Petropavlovsk. "Santa Barbara" was blacked out for a few nights last month because the city

hadn't paid its T.V. bill. I stopped by the Central Bank several weeks ago to buy rubles, only to find a hand-lettered sign reading "NO MONEY." "Oh, come on," I said to the teller. "I gotta eat." She sighed and peeled \$50 worth from her dwindling stack.

"Life is more difficult here now, but better," says Fedor, a sable researcher who just returned to his laboratory after a six-month unpaid "vacation." "During the Gorbachev years we had talones (ration coupons) for a month. But life was simpler before. Now everything is more complicated. And the prices!" Fedor is right: in the past six months prices for bread and other essentials have more than doubled. A loaf of white bread costs the equivalent of fifty-seven cents; chicken is \$2.17 per kilo; hot-house cucumbers are \$4.50 per kilo. Not bad in the real world, but terrifying for

people like my landlady, a 58-year-old, ex-school-teacher who receives a pension of \$77 per month. Kamchatka's only real industry is fishing — a good business to be in when you members of the *nomenklatura* put themselves in charge of the "joint ventures" that replaced the collectives. Predictably, they plunder Kamchatka's fishery with a rapacity that would astonish even Boss Tweed.

In Petropavlovsk, thin spots in the social fabric are increasingly visible. Homeless people sleep in the marine terminal; earlier this year paramedics refused to treat two drunks because they lacked proper documents. The men died. Last month we feasted on reports of a mafia war that opened with a Kalashnikov shoot-out in the bar of the city's ritziest restaurant and closed with the discovery of five bullet-riddled bodies in a flaming jeep. Old news for Washington or L.A., maybe, but shocking here. One candidate in last month's local elections proposed closing Kamchatka to Chechens and Georgians, the ethnic groups most often blamed for organized crime. Many of my friends think that's not such a bad idea.

In truth, Kamchatka doesn't have patience with much that comes from Russia anymore. Talk of secession among local politicians has moved from wishful to "why not?"; it has been fueled by dreams of a revitalized fishing industry, a shipping hub for the North Pacific and tourism based on Kamchatka's unspoiled environment. In *Brigadoon* the villagers decide that the modern world isn't worth the trouble. Who, living in the instability of the former Soviet Union today, wouldn't want to pull in the welcome mat, lock the door and stay home?

Nancy Shute is a Fulbright Scholar living in Kamchatka.

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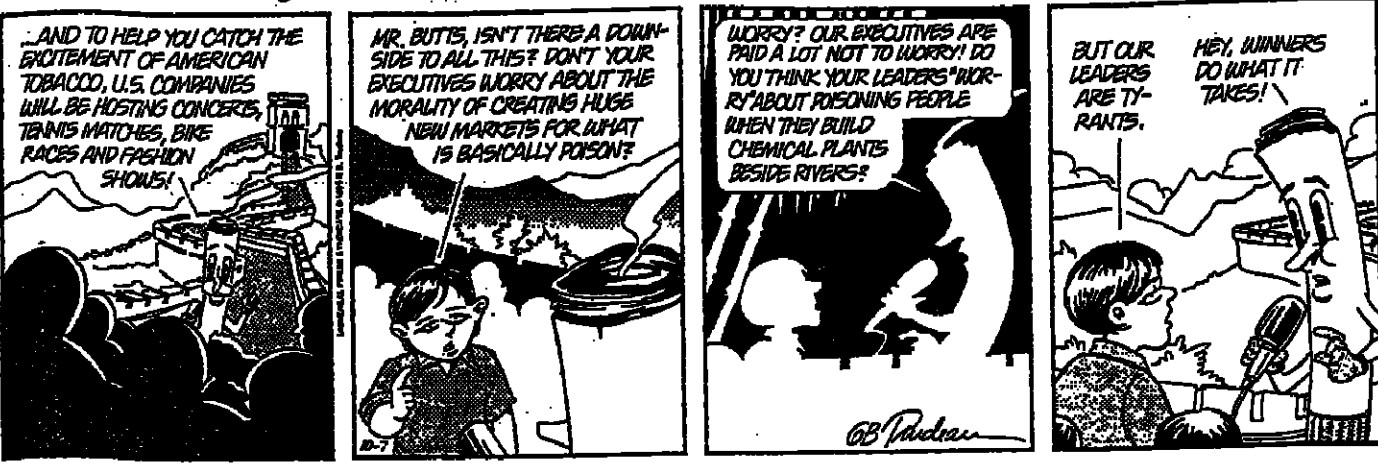
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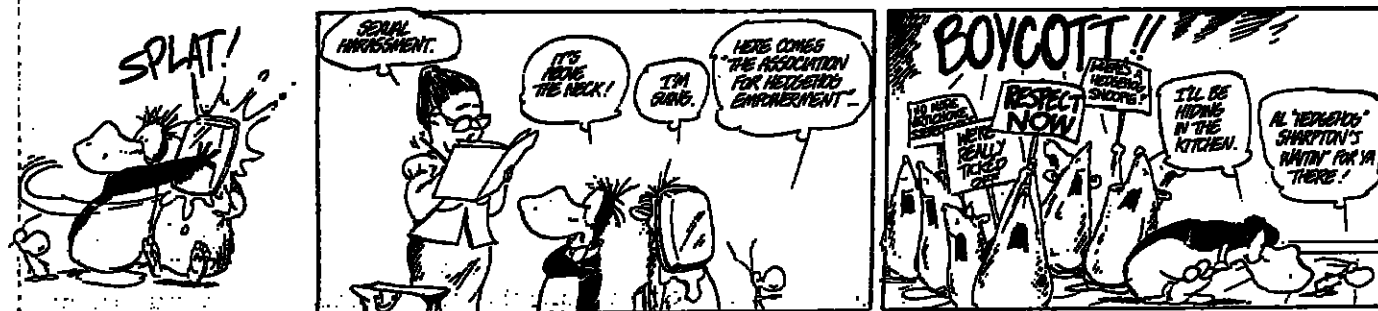
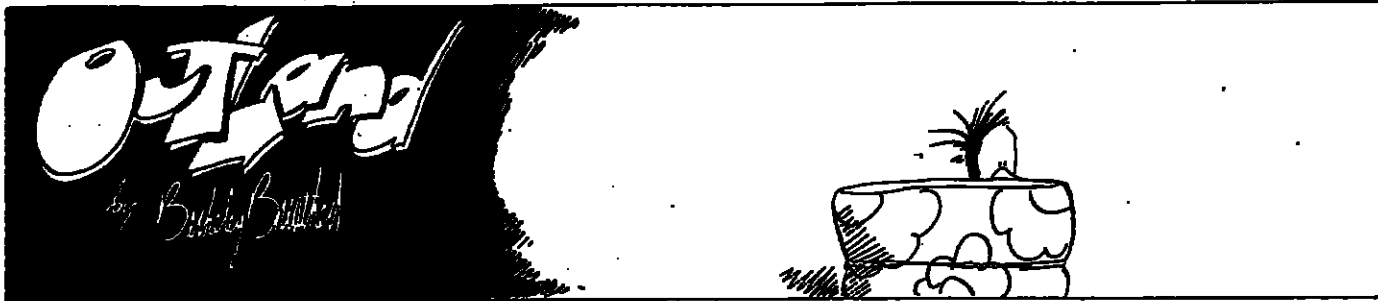
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU



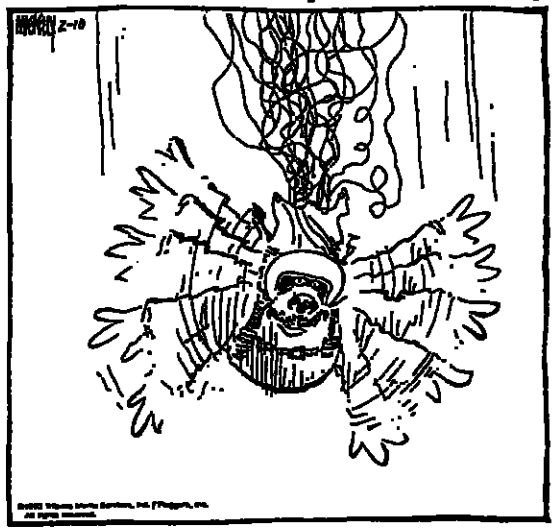
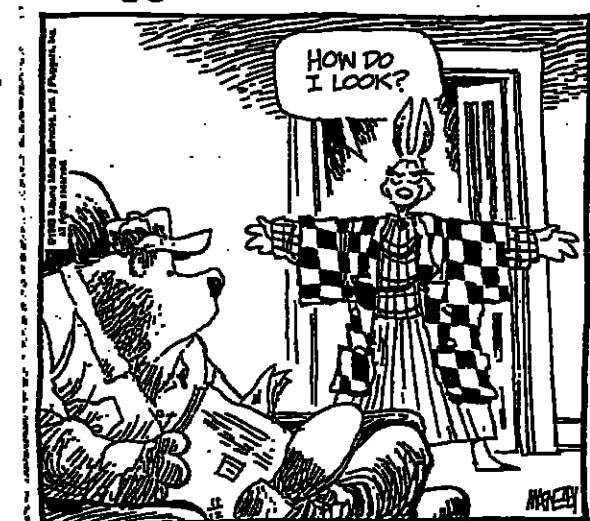
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by Jeff MacNelly



Pluggers

by Jeff MacNelly



Andy Rooney

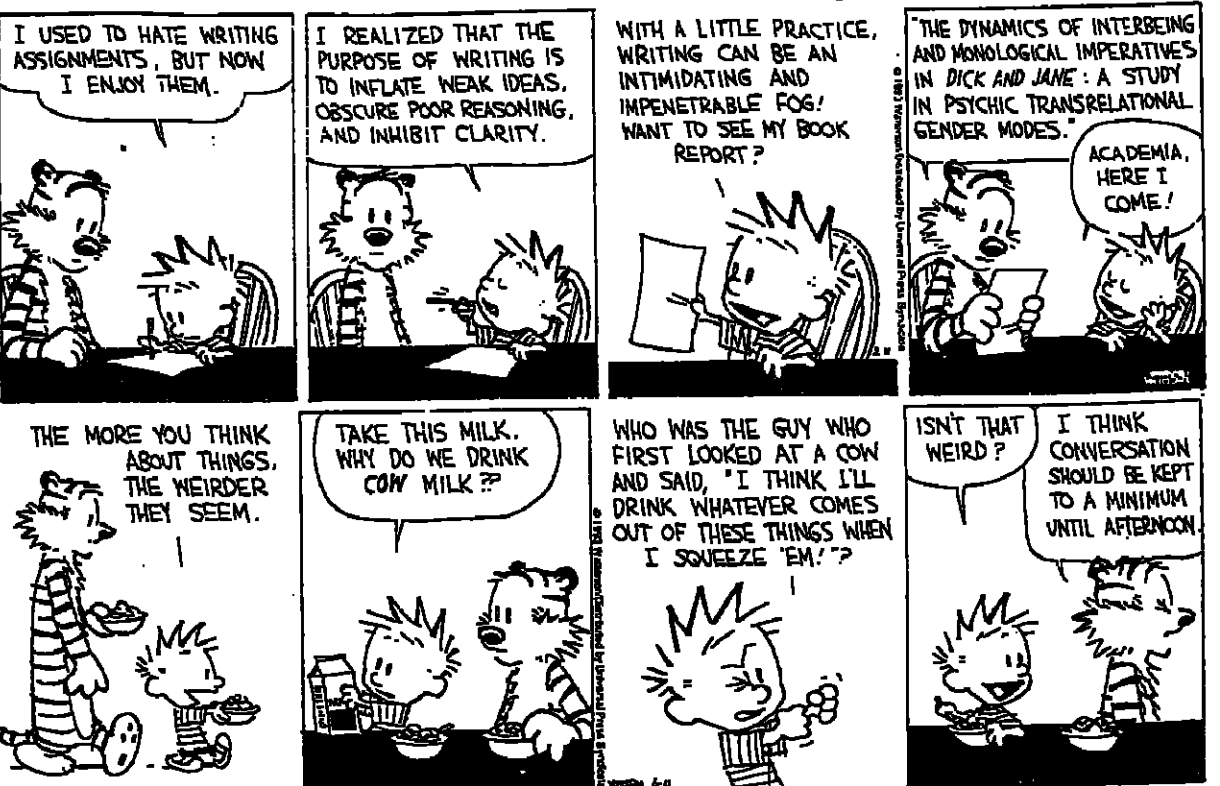
Take A Letter, Take This!

I regularly get packets of papers from grade school teachers who have asked their students to write to me. I have a batch of 23 letters by sixth grade students at a school in Saratoga Spa, New York. Most of the kids must be 11. "Our class just read your article HOW TO READ A NEWSPAPER," writes Stephen. "It was very humorous. Nobody reads the newspaper front to back. Its propotrous to even try." Good, Stephen — a little weak on spelling, but spelling isn't as important as the thought. "What was your first job?" asks Frederick. Well, Frederick, I could tell you but it might be a good exercise for you if you learned to use the library and looked it up for yourself. Kenny writes, "I'm glad our teacher made us read this, for the reason I'm your favorite reader." Kenny reminds me of people who stop me on the street and ask, "Are you who I think I am?" or "Am I who I think you are?" Many of the letters began as Melissa's did: "Dear Mr. Rooney, Hi, my name is Melissa." If I were Melissa's teacher, I'd point out that if you sign the letter, it isn't necessary to announce your name at the beginning. Kids do that to make their letters long enough. I remember myself how hard it was in the sixth grade to stretch something I wrote to fill a whole page. I wrote a good letter and he was one of the few who didn't spell humor H-U-M-E-R. "I really don't know what to say about HOW TO READ A NEWSPAPER," writes Lori. None of the kids had any real comment to make but Lori was the only one who admitted it.

Kimberly must be bright. "I know you don't like people coming up to you and asking for autographs or just people watching and looking at your wonderful and very famous face." It doesn't look that good in the mirror, Kimberly. Rebecca wrote, "Boy, oh boy was that a strange essay." She concludes by saying, "Its been nice writing you but I have to go." Patrick wastes less time having to go. "Dear Mr. Rooney," he begins. "Lets keep this letter short because I have to go." Please don't let me keep you, Patrick. This wasn't my idea. I know why Patrick was a little testy. "I like your story," he says, "but I got a 68 on the test on it. I guess I didn't understand it." Brian must be a character. "I really don't want to write to you but my teacher made me," he says. "I read a story of yours and I thought I knew what it was about but apparetly I didn't because I failed the test about it." Ryan ends his letter by saying, "Some other things are, are you married? If you are, to who?" That's "to whom," Ryan, but I don't think Margie's anyone you'd know, anyway. Monique signs off "Painfully Disgusted" after saying "I simply despised your article. I don't mean to be rude but I just don't understand it." Monique adds, "P.S. Right back." Matt says, "I hate reading but now that I have read your article I like reading more now. Not!" Another Ryan wrapped it up for everyone: "My teacher is crazy to think we would enjoy writing letters to you."

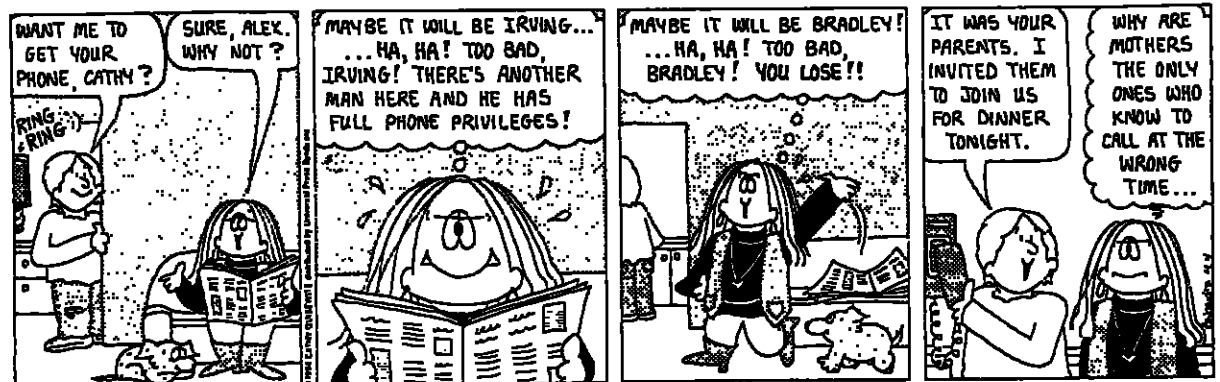
Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



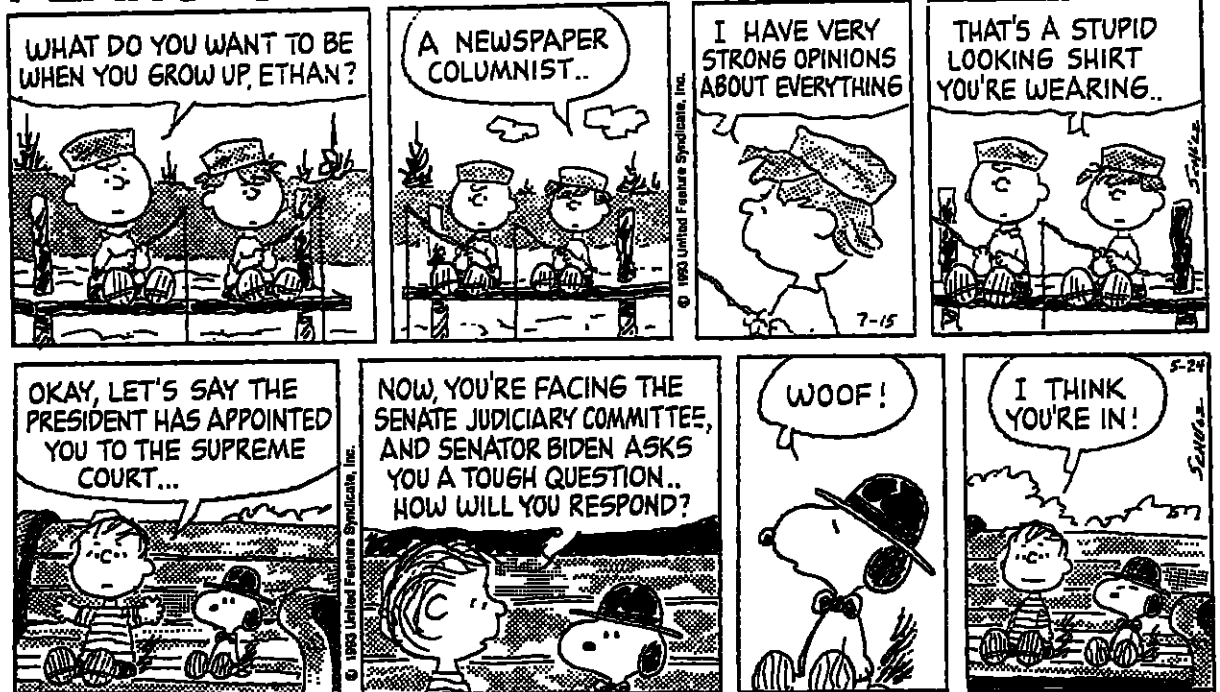
cathy

by Cathy Guisewite



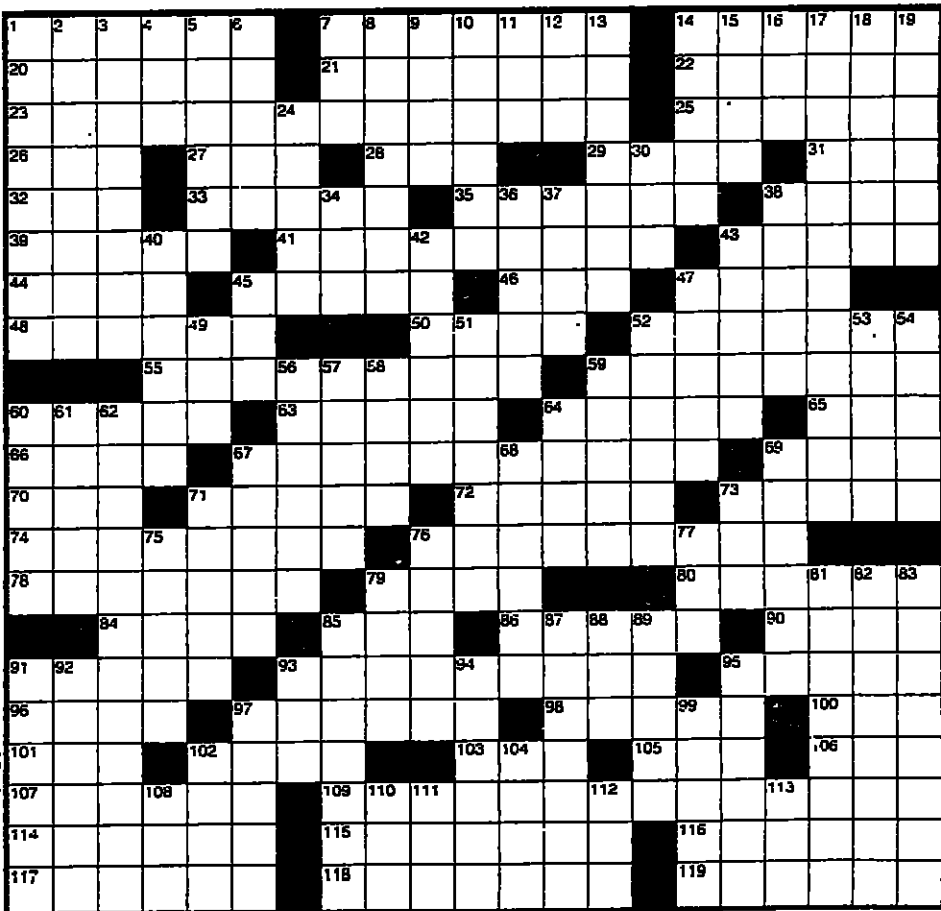
PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz



THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman
FAIR PLAY: A puzzle we're proud to call mediocre
by Randolph Ross



- ACROSS**
- PG or R
 - Rubs the wrong way
 - Caterpillars, e.g.
 - Donahue of Father Knows Best
 - Soprano's effect
 - Innovative creator
 - Memento from Texas
 - Vallarta, Mexico
 - Once around
 - Walst neighbor
 - Mao -tung
 - Normandy port
 - Gumshoe
 - Follower of 46 Across
 - Chou
 - "Wild One" singer
 - Bulgar's neighbor
 - Busy people
 - Regretful comment
 - Silverdome team
 - Memo phrase
 - 60 Minutes correspondent
 - Preceder of 32 Across
 - Part of the roll call
 - Trojan sage
 - Actress Barrymore
 - Freezer setting
 - GI shindig
 - Aversion
 - Fifty
 - Sultan's wives
 - Horse fathers
 - "the ramparts..."
 - even keel
 - Legendary tenor's offerings
 - Little bits of France
 - Up to, poetically
 - Was optimistic
 - Elbow gently
 - Battery terminal
 - Conforming to a fashion
 - Catch pigs with a rope
 - Had ambitions
 - fan tutte
 - Peer Gynt dancer
 - Caught in the act
 - In favor of
 - Major key
 - Club payment
 - Fair-haired boy
 - A bit later
 - Leans (toward)
 - Colleen's cousin
 - About 3 light-years
 - Chopper top
 - Language ending
 - Tokyo's former name
 - Loan arranger
 - kwon do
 - Area code 208: Abbr.
 - Fernando Valley

- DOWN**
- Landed a big one
 - Irving Berlin tune
 - Sots
 - "pig's eye!"
 - Between-meal snacks
 - Where vault meets vault
 - From Z
 - Uncivilized
 - Prepares to drag
 - Arabian royalty
 - Put on
 - Buildog
 - Merlin's profession
 - Camation station
 - Make for it (scoot)
 - AAA suggestion
 - Itzhak Perlman performance
 - Nautical direction
 - Fills the shelves
 - Small champagne bottle
 - Yasmin Khan's dad
 - MD group
 - Bumpkin
 - Wrestling result
 - Miss America headwear
 - Investor's concern
 - Your parents' music
 - Some jabs
 - B'way hit sign
 - Affirmative votes
 - Sugar suffix
 - Helen Hunt Jackson heroine et al.
 - Sad songs
 - Spirited mount
 - To the point
 - Modeled
 - Propelled, perhaps
 - Muck
 - Wild dog
 - "luck!"
 - Parts of the curriculum
 - Caribbean music
 - Installs a lawn
 - Deceive
 - Namesakes of a sleeper of song
 - Behind closed doors
 - Taken on
 - Grain bristle
 - Bank holdings
 - At large
 - Feedbag morsel
 - Computer screens
 - Ignores, in a way
 - Pasta topping
 - Agreeable one
 - Flat hat
 - Predict
 - Card game
 - Disagreeable ones
 - Dugan's pal
 - Don't hold its color
 - Son of Scotland
 - Bobbsey girl
 - Gasoline rating
 - Kerry city
 - Out of fashion
 - Nasal invaders
 - Ernie's pal
 - A "apple"
 - Presidential monogram
 - Treasury agcy.
 - Camp bosses: Abbr.
 - CIA predecessor
 - Banned pesticide

The World

South Africans Take A Draught of Democracy

By FRANCIS X. CLINES

THE four days of voting had just ended in this rural outpost and the election volunteers were sensing that the sweet labor of democracy must never end. So they manned brooms at the schoolhouse polling place and began sweeping out the red dust tramped onto the premises by the voters. The sweepers were reversing the swirl of all those once-powerless black South Africans who had converged so determinedly from the surrounding farm hills to roll the earth, red as dried blood, into a gritty bond with the liberation balloting.

"I wanted this," Edwin Nyatlo, a local schoolteacher, said fiercely of how well the multiracial voting went in South Africa's great moment of turning. He was proud of the election team he led on a circuit-riding polling bus to some of the humbler towns here up country. He was proud as they swept the grit back out onto the byways of a hated place once called Labowa — one of the Potemkin townships created by the white oligarchy of apartheid to ghettoize the nation's black majority.

The dust was finally burying the very idea of Labowa. The township was officially expunged as a vestige of apartheid with the act of voting. Blacks were henceforth free to go, to rebase their existence beyond the fragmented archipelago of such places where they

"My parents never saw this day. My husband never saw this day. Now I'm going to go to the cemetery and tell his bones that I voted."

had suffered half-lives or worse. In principle, and somewhat in fact during the past four years of transition, they could move freely about a nation they were finally inheriting as a majority political force.

This was only one of the changes certified in the voting last week by 20 million South Africans: a quadrupled electorate booming with fresh hope as the black masses were politically emancipated after two generations of apartheid and three centuries of colonial domination.

"For most of us, it is a victory just to vote, let alone what will follow thereafter," Mr. Nyatlo said. He smiled thinly in discussing democracy and noted that this was actually not the first right to vote of his lifetime. "No, we



A woman stood among election posters in Johannesburg last Monday, the first day of the elections.

could vote in the township elections," he said, referring to the intramural black contests that the white government concocted in Labowa and other apartheid warrens as a soupçon of "democratic" choice to wave in the face of international condemnation. "They were not real elections. Most of us avoided that fakery. I knew it was not what I wanted."

"What we all wanted was this," said the 45-year-old schoolteacher, as soldiers carefully escorted the ballot boxes back onto the election bus for overnight guarding before the morning's tally.

Accepting Mandela

Well south of this region of farms and safari lands, where mesas were silhouetted in the sunset of the final day's voting, the political heart of the nation already was accepting Nelson Mandela as the man certain to be elected President of the new South Africa.

The 75-year-old patriarch, monkish about privacy after 27 years of political imprisonment, politely rebuffed news questioners' attempts to unearth vanity insights. But he did grow personal in his regret at the absence of old friends and liberation heroes as the living South Africa finally comes to face an honest tally.

"I wish I could get them to rise from their graves," he said.

Across the nation, a requiem theme was threaded through the larger emotions of attending at the birth of the free majority, particularly among elderly blacks who had lived all their lives in the tin hovels and manacled opportunities of apartheid.

"My parents never saw this day. My husband never saw this day," regretted Mildred Mtsueneane, a blind, arthritic mother of 10 children. The gray-haired woman was weeping in triumph after balloting in a church in the Soweto ghetto that was ringed and ringed again by a patient throng. Emerging into the sunlight, she could not see how elegantly the lines of voters laced the hillside sprawl of the dirt-road town.

"I can tell you dawn is breaking and the dark light is gone," Mrs. Mtsueneane said. "When my husband was dying in 1988 he asked me, 'What will you be doing in the year 2000?' I always thought that was a crazy question. Well, now I'm going to go to the cemetery and tell his bones that I voted," the old woman said, six years short of the millennium but smiling.

Such epiphanies have been seen before: at the ballot boxes in the Philippines in 1986, before the blood and romance of liberation yielded to the more boring problems of poverty and infant mortality; at the ballot boxes in Russia in 1989, before the torrents of free speech washed ashore fresh celebrity demagogues.

Here, uncertain as the future is, at least there is no Marxist hangover of politicians still hesitant about private property. South Africa's capitalist infrastructure is impressive, and the newly enfranchised masses, while fettered frighteningly to shantytowns, are demanding a fair share of land ownership.

Here also the voting days were amazingly free of any more of the deaths that had been the bloody preamble to liberation as militant factions were forced to compromise. The once-alarming white supremacist guerrilla movement was reduced to absurdist cult posings after the public ignored it and the police, pressing to catch up with a new South Africa, arrested dozens of its members for terrorist bombings that failed to stop the vote.

Even before the final results are announced, the nation is adjusting to the clichés of democracy. Soporific media analyzing is already being intoned over the purer voice of the people. A newspaper out to test the enlarged public's anxiety level headlines, "Mandela: I May Raise Taxes." Taxes are the price of self-governing nationhood, Mr. Mandela patiently explains, and visitors smile, wondering whether the fledgling democracy will evolve to the read-my-lips stages of free speech.

Most basic of all, for those curious about simple comparisons, the political emancipation of the 30 million blacks here leaves them as the influential majority in a government of national unity. They are different from the ex-slaves who, as a minority, lost further generations to time and tribulation in the Jim Crow gauntlet of post-Civil War America. White South Africans seem to understand this difference well, as they waited the long hours respectfully side by side with blacks at what used to be whites-only voting stations. Many enthused about the experience later in the general scramble for egalitarianism.

"It was so wonderful to see them making their little X's," one white suburban matron commented, patronizing as ever, but making the critical concession that those little X's would tally into the black majority power of a politically revolutionized South Africa.



A soldier in Natal, guarding the polling station where Nelson Mandela voted, smiled (after some prodding) as others sang the new South African national anthem.

Theories of Intervention

From Sarajevo to Wherever

Continued from page 1

said, "you have to apply them to places you aren't used to caring about, and that's why everyone shrinks away from it."

Mr. Steinbruner said that the world now lacks the rationale, the coalition and the military planning for such operations. And he said that the main emphasis should be on early prevention of conflicts, rather than military intervention.

But he said that ultimately, aggressors will be deterred only by credible threats of countervailing force.

"Massive breakdowns of the civil order are too dangerous for the entire system," he said. "We are very slow to get on to this. But ultimately we won't have a lot of choice. If we want to run a coherent society ourselves, we will have to defend legal order at the far reaches of the globe."

Non-Interventionism: Avoiding Entanglements

Ted Galen Carpenter, director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, sees few, if any, humanitarian tragedies that justify American military intervention.

"We can express moral outrage as citizens, or as a government," he argues, "but that cannot be a criterion for intervention."

He worries that intervention is a slippery slope and that deployment of American troops to countries like Somalia builds the pressure for wider commitments.

"There are so many potential arenas," he said, "that even if we pursued it multilaterally, the U.S. would be involved in a great many conflicts, incurring great costs and substantial risks. A global security system is impractical."

Mr. Carpenter has little use either for those who call for intervention to quell selected instances of humanitarian abuses, usually the most egregious.

American forces, he said, should be placed in harm's way only if this country's survival is at stake, or when the international order is threatened by something like Hitler's rise to power.

"Those who come down in the middle end up getting into a lot of different enterprises,

peacekeeping operations, and then find out, as we did in Somalia, that the task is much more difficult than we anticipated," he said. "At that point, all but the most ardent lose interest, or go into opposition."

For him, Bosnia is the classic example of a place in which the United States has no real interests and no reason to meddle. "Serbia is a third-rate economic and military power," he asserts, "with no territorial ambitions beyond the borders of Yugoslavia."

"As tragic as the situation is — and it is obviously horrible — the best solution is probably to let the various factions fight it out. To intervene there raises the obvious question. If there, why not the Sudan, where more than a million have perished, or Angola, where the U.N. says 1,000 a day are perishing, or the chaos of Afghanistan?"

"There are a lot of tragedies in the world," he added, "and we can't intervene in all of them."

Mr. Carpenter dismissed the notion that a strong stand in, say, Bosnia, might deter aggressors elsewhere.

"Most conflicts have local roots; they're due to local factors," he said. "Just because an aggressor is hammered halfway around the world doesn't mean that competing factions in another region will be intimidated."

Flexibility: Indignation Case by Case

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was President Carter's national security adviser, agrees it is impractical to intervene in every conflict. But he said the West cannot stand by when atrocities become as severe as the recent massacres in Rwanda, where as many as 200,000 people may have been killed, according to the U.N. Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The indifference to this staggering carnage, Mr. Brzezinski said, is a "total blemish on the international community and the international organizations."

America tends "to interfere as little as possible in foreign wars, civil wars," he said. "And that's the tendency of this President. Yet even he can't get away with it."

Mr. Brzezinski said it is a useless exercise to define when — and for what reason — foreign conflicts require intervention.

"It's not a mathematical question," he said. "It's a matter of common sense. At a certain point, disasters become something bigger, and people cannot stand aside."

"Is it a thousand people killed? A million? It depends somewhat on the traditions of the country. In a country like China, a million disappear, and this is taken rather stoically."

The Limits of Power: Listening to the Voters

All of the people who call themselves pragmatists — from the hawkish to the dovish — say humanitarian interventions should be limited to those cases in which the West can make a difference at a reasonable cost.

But James R. Schlesinger, a former Director of Central Intelligence and Defense Secretary under Presidents Nixon and Ford, says this misses the point. Intervention implies a decision to, if necessary, use substantial force. That must be decided at the outset.

Are there cases of genocide where the United States and its allies should take action, even if no national interest is at stake? "Probably yes," Mr. Schlesinger says. "But it has to go over many hurdles."

Pressed on whether intervention ever becomes a moral imperative, he said: "Those who would act on behalf of morality had better think through the entire moral fabric, including imposing those views on an indifferent body politic in America."

To Mr. Schlesinger, the most crucial hurdle is American public opinion.

"If people see enough horrors on TV, that can be enough," he said.

"This country is still the most democratic of democracies, in which foreign policies well up, to a large extent, from the general public. You can't do things as if you were the Imperial German Government. I don't believe you can go into a costly humanitarian operation solely as a result of ruminations by the executive branch."

He also cautioned against the notion of firing shots across the bow of an aggressor. "Don't do these little signals," he said. "That's an American illusion: 'If we only send a signal to Ho Chi Minh that his important assets are at risk, he will see that the rational thing to do is desist.'"

Mr. Clinton Will See You, But He Won't Meet You

By GWEN IFILL

HELMUT KOHL got lunch at a Georgetown restaurant. Salman Rushdie qualified only for a hallway hello. And the Dalai Lama of Tibet rated no more than a Presidential "drop by."

What's the difference? For those who analyze the comings and goings of White House visitors, a world of subtext lurks between the fine gradations on the scale of protocol. But where do they draw the line?

Sure, Germany is a valuable Western ally, so it is really no surprise that President Clinton took time to indulge in a little pasta with the Chancellor in January.

But when Mr. Rushdie, who has been living under a death threat supported by the Iranian government, visited last November, and got a diplomatic drive-by with the President in a corridor of the Old Executive Office Building, did anyone honestly believe that this would be less offensive to Islamic fundamentalists than, say, french fries in the Oval Office?

Last Thursday's visit with the Dalai Lama ranked higher on the ladder of protocol: a meeting with Vice President Gore in his West Wing office for 30 minutes and 15 scheduled minutes with Mr. Clinton.

But the White House would not say that the President actually met with the Tibetan religious leader. Mr. Clinton, a carefully worded statement read, "joined the meeting," and the ensuing discussion was held out of camera range.

The Chinese government, which has been at odds with the Dalai Lama over the sovereignty of Tibet, said in advance that any meeting would constitute "an interference in China's internal affairs." Would it be really possible to bridge the Himalayan-sized divide between these adversaries with a little bit of diplomatic toe-stepping?

But there is a serious side to all this. White House meetings can often be a useful guide to emerging policy. Witness the



trials of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the embattled and exiled President of Haiti.

When Mr. Clinton took office and announced he would return Haitian émigrés on the high seas, Mr. Aristide's meetings were with Mr. Gore. Later, when Mr. Clinton announced he would help Mr. Aristide return to Haiti as its democratically elected leader, he did so in a formal Oval Office session, complete with photographers.

But most recently, as the United States' Haiti policy began to crumble and Mr. Aristide began to complain, his highest ranking meeting was with Anthony Lake, the National Security Adviser.

No Oval Office. No Vice President's Office. No White House, even. Said a White House official: "That was off campus."

This poet broke language barriers

THERE AND THEN

SRAYA SHAPIRO

LEA Goldberg was born into a traumatic world. She was not yet four when her family was ordered to leave Kovno, then under Russian rule, because the Germans were closing in.

Wanderings took the Goldbergs to a small town on a tributary of the Volga river.

"I liked to climb a tree and read. Those were the happiest times in my life," the poetess recalled.

Her story is told by A.B. Yoffe in *Lea Goldberg, Tavey Dnuv ve-Yezira* ("Traits of Personality and Creativity," published by Reshafim, 296 pp.). Yoffe, erstwhile literary editor of the daily *Al Hamishmar*, followed Lea Goldberg's oeuvre for many years.

Tragedy struck the Goldbergs as they returned home at the end of the war. The Lithuanian border guards arrested her father because the brown-reddish shoes he wore were deemed to denote that the man was a communist — only communists could afford such footwear in the Soviet Union, it seems. The man was kept in a barn and subjected to a mock execution routine for 10 consecutive days. He lost his mind.

His eight-year-old daughter remembered sitting in the field, watching over the luggage late into the cold, cold night, while her mother pleaded with the soldiers.

Finally, they were allowed to move. Her father was hospitalized; her mother went to work. In the middle-class society of Kovno it spelled social degradation.

"People stopped greeting us in the street," Lea Goldberg recalled.

She was to study in a school where the language was Russian. But the majority of students were Jewish, and their parents resolved that the morning classes should be conducted in Hebrew. Goldberg didn't know a word of Hebrew. She was an avid reader — in Russian. It took her six months to catch up with Hebrew and Lithuanian, meanwhile suffering rejection and disdain from her classmates who regarded her as "playing the aristocrat" because she did not speak Yiddish.

THE GREEN hills and the quiet rivers of Kovno pursued Goldberg's fancy years after she settled in sun-baked Tel Aviv. But the Jews of Kovno exasperated her. It was a provincial quagmire.

Even the Hebrew-speaking circle which claimed to be progressive was dominated by conservative-minded, aging pundits. Writer Eliezer Steinman, Avraham Shlonsky's associate in an avant-garde weekly in Tel Aviv, was appalled with what he saw on his visit to Kovno.

"Where is the proverbial 'Litvak' sharpness of mind?" he fulminated.

Goldberg found solace in reading. She read everything, from folk songs to Plato. She read at home and she read at school when the lessons did not interest her. All her reading was in Russian; she found but little appeal in Hebrew prose, except Uri Nissan Gnessin and Yossef Haim Brenner. But she liked Hebrew poetry, especially that published by Shlonsky in *Turim*.

She earned her degree from the

University of Berlin with a thesis on Samaritan texts. Berlin of 1932 was "a perplexing city hanging in the void — a city of freedom and peace on the brink of blood."

In 1935 she obtained a "certificate," thanks to Shlonsky's intervention. She lived with her mother in a quiet street in what was then north of Tel Aviv, described by her in a children's book, *My Friends from Rehov Amon*.

Davar, the Histadrut-sponsored daily, opened its pages to Goldberg. She wrote mainly on literary and theatrical subjects, but also did some reporting and many translations. In addition to Hebrew and Russian she had a working knowledge of German, French and Italian.

HER FIRST volume of verse was called *Rings of Smoke* — an appropriate title, for she was a heavy smoker.

"I am a poet," Lea Goldberg avowed. "It is like being in love. Poetry is basically erotic. In love, you never know where flesh ends and spirit takes over. Young women scribbling verse should better learn to cook."

She said she had been composing verse since the age of five and published her first poem at 16. Manifestly immature, she admitted. Her adult poems speak of grief, resignation and loneliness in the big town. The future? — bleak.

Some critics were shocked to discover in Lea Goldberg's poems "Christian" references — church bells, Madonnas. Yoffe is not confused: It is just memories, part of the European upbringing. Gradually, old symbols disappear as the poetess gets overwhelmed by the sun-baked vistas of the New-Old Land.

She tried her hand at playwriting. A one-act play, *The Rose of Astoria*, was practically overlooked by the critics. The theme was the Spanish Civil War. The hero, a defender of the Republic, declared, "No time for love yet — just fight."

But *The Lady of the Palace*, in 1959, was presented by the Chamber Theater and was a success. It is a typical "romantic play," Yoffe writes, about the inmates of an old Czech manor just after WWII: They hate each other and suffer from the changes that had destroyed their private universe.

Shlonsky took Lea Goldberg over to the Mapam-sponsored daily *Al Hamishmar* in 1943 — indeed, she was unequivocally in the "Shlonsky circle" all the time. In 1952 she was invited to chair the comparative literature department at the Hebrew University. Two years later she joined a delegation of "Democratic Women" — allegedly a communist front organization — to visit the Soviet Union. But when it came to acknowledging the "socialist realism" decreed from Moscow, she put her foot down.

Culture for her was the masterpieces of the Russian prerevolutionary Golden Generation, including Tolstoy, whose *War and Peace* she translated.

"She sincerely aspired to transmit the love of this culture to her students at the university," Yoffe writes. "To no avail, if one is to judge by the contemporary literature. What a pity!"

When a pet has disappeared

HEADS 'N' TAILS

DYVORA BEN SHAUL

LOSING a pet is, understandably, extremely upsetting. If you suspect your pet has disappeared, the first priority is to make a serious effort to find it. Don't wait around in the hope that it will find its way home.

If the missing pet is a male dog, it may be courting a female in the vicinity. Walk around the neighborhood and look for groups of male dogs in a garden or courtyard.

If this isn't successful, go immediately to the municipal dog pound and to the local SPCA kennel. Your dog may have been picked up by the municipal dog catchers, especially if it was unleashed. Don't rely on a telephone query. The workers at the pound may not recognize the dog from your description or the dog may be brought in just after your call.

Go to the pound during working hours and if your dog isn't there leave a description and a picture if you have one, and give them your telephone number at home and at work. You should also post neighborhood notices offering a reward for the finder.

Lost cats are, of course, much more difficult to locate and they are not ordinarily impounded. Post notices around the neighborhood offering a reward and, for pure-breed cats, contact local pet shops as it's possible someone may try to sell it to them. It is also a good idea to check with the SPCA because sometimes a kind-hearted individual will take them to the shelter.

Tame cats may be adopted by a

new owner who believes the cat is homeless. The neighborhood notices will help if this is the case. I once reclaimed my Siamese cat from a kind lady who is a true cat lover. Passing my street late one Friday night, a group of boys had spotted my miserable, overfed cat rummaging in the garbage bins. They thought the poor fellow might be lost and hungry so they took him to a lady who they knew loved cats.

Cats, like dogs, can wear a tag with your telephone number on it attached to a strip of elastic around their necks. Avoid other types of collars, as these are dangerous for cats who climb trees and risk catching the collar on a branch. An elastic strip will slip easily over the cat's head if he needs to free himself.

Lost parrots should be sought through pet shops and the zoo, since most people who find a parrot would give it to the zoo or try to sell it to a pet shop. Tell the pet dealers that you are offering a reward for the finder and leave your telephone number with them and with the zoo. You can also put a metal ring with your telephone number on your parrot's foot. The bands are light, cause no discomfort and don't hinder flying.

Parakeets, like parrots, are not easy to find, but do leave a message with the bird keeper at the zoo. Parakeets are highly social birds and more than once when working at the zoo I arrived in the morning to find a little lost parakeet sitting on the outside of the parakeet aviary begging to get in.



Marine biologist David Darom wears a special watch for underwater photography. (David Brauner)

Underwater challenges for the photographer

DAVID BRAUNER

ON CAMERA

IMAGINE an optically strange world of sharply reduced light where objects appear 33 percent larger and 25 percent closer than they are and a 28-millimeter lens becomes a 35-mm. lens.

These are but a few of the challenges facing the underwater photographer.

Underwater photography has come a long way since Frenchman Louis Boutan published *La Photographie Sous-marine* in 1900 with clear pictures of snorkel diving.

Since then almost all technical difficulties have been overcome, but it is still not a common specialization because of the skills, equipment and expense involved.

Marine biologist Dr. David Darom, head of Hebrew University's Department of Scientific Illustration, is one of the experts — he has been taking pictures underwater for 30 years.

As a boy growing up in Jerusalem, Darom was fascinated by two things — sharks and handguns. He has since written handbooks (in Hebrew) on both these subjects.

After the Six Day War, Darom began his Ph.D. and took up an appointment as HU's resident scientist at Eilat. While a student, a visiting American professor offered to leave her photographic equipment with him for 11 months of the year.

National Geographic photographers, for whom Darom acted as underwater guide, expressed their gratitude by leaving him hundreds of films — enough for a whole year's work.

Working underwater requires all the normal photographic skills plus the recognition of operating in an alien environment. Darom said. The color of the light as one descends deeper shifts to blue and green, because water absorbs the red end of the spectrum.

Steadiness is a problem, because "the water moves, the animals move, you move," Darom said. Triopods are not practical in a partially weightless medium.

Natural light penetrates best

around noon on calm days, when the surface is flat. At other times and when the sea is rough, more light is reflected than absorbed. The underwater photographer is thus often limited to close-ups, requiring the aid of artificial lighting.

Equipment falls into two categories. For years Nikon has led the field with its Nikons series of waterproof cameras, and recently they have produced the first underwater auto-focus SLR.

Alternatively, various rigid and nonrigid housings are available for adapting ordinary cameras to the liquid medium. The more expensive housings allow for deeper dives and more control over the settings.

Darom noted that one cannot change lenses or reload film underwater. From his own bitter experience he has learned never to completely finish off a film during a dive.

"I always leave the last two frames unshot, because coming out of a dive you always seem to encounter the most unique situations," he said. "Some of my most spectacular pictures have been taken with these last two shots."

A glow comes over Darom's ruddy face as he recalls taking the "perfect picture." It was late afternoon at Dahab in Sinai and already too dark to see underwater. As he broke the surface, he heard a "swish," then saw between him and the sun-bathed mountains of the shore a shark's dorsal fin.

"Automatically, I shot," he said. "A once-in-a-lifetime shot." As a scientist, Darom also explores the sea's nighttime world. As a photographer, he waxes lyrical.

"The whole reef changes its face at night," he said. "Millions of organisms that sleep during the day are awake at night. The colors

are magnificent. It's also very eerie, because you can't see beyond your own lighting."

Eilat is an ideal site for underwater photography, because the coral reef is so near the shore. Scuba diving is not essential to take underwater pictures. All that's needed is a snorkel set and a purpose-made, waterproof vinyl bag with a built-in glove that can accommodate almost any make of camera.

Another method requires no diving at all. Inshore plants and animals can be photographed through the bottom of an old aquarium, for example, that is pushed into the water.

Darom extols the excitement and rewards of submarine photography. But danger is never far away. Darom has twice saved the lives of fellow divers-photographers.

Full-course peanut dinner

KISHON'S KEYHOLE

EPHRAIM KISHON

Ephraim, are you sure it's for dinner?"

"I think I'm sure..."

We'd been into this before. Mrs. Pomerantz had phoned to invite us for Wednesday evening at 8:30. I'd said fine, thank you, and we'd been analyzing that conversation ever since, because Mrs. Pomerantz hadn't said it was for dinner, but she hadn't said it wasn't either.

"You don't invite people for 8:30 if you don't mean dinner," the little woman pointed out. "so I guess it is dinner." I guessed so too. If they're not going to feed you they say, "any time after eight," or they say, "8-ish" — they don't say 8:30. On top of that, I had a feeling Mrs. Pomerantz had put a sort of emphasis on the hour. Eight-thirty, she'd said, and there'd been a definitely dinnerish edge to her voice...

"No," concluded the wife. "it's for dinner. I'm almost certain."

I suggested calling Mrs. Pomerantz and throwing out a feeler, but the wife said no, it wasn't done.

Came Wednesday, and it so happened that we'd both done a lot of running around all day and had only grabbed a sandwich for lunch, so that by evening we were rather hungry, but the little one said better stick it out. "I know Mrs. Pomerantz, if she gives you dinner — it's dinner." I pictured a table with huge platters of shish-kebab, turkey, salads, baked potatoes and pickles. Just so long as they wouldn't sit around for ages. Keep the chitchat till after dinner, please.

Things didn't look too promising at first.

To begin with, no one else had arrived yet, and the Pomerantz were still dressing. Our worried glances surveyed the living room and found no sign of anything substantial.

The equipment was standard: armchairs around a low table, the low table carrying a bowl of salted peanuts, almonds and raisins, some olives, squares of cheese with plastic toothpicks stuck in them, crackers. Could Mrs. Pomerantz have said 9:30 on the phone, not 8:30? Or maybe she hadn't mentioned any time at all and I'd just been imagining things?

"A drink?"

That was Mr. Pomerantz, knotting his tie as he breezed into the room. He offered us a John Collins, which is a great drink made up of a third brandy, a third soda, and a dash of Collins. We'd have welcomed it at any other time, but just then we were rather too turkey-minded to really appreciate it.

"Cheers," said Mr. Pomerantz.

"Um... have you seen the new Albee play?"

I took a handful of peanuts and tried to enlarge upon the ironic implications of the play's introverted claustrophobic theme, but soon realized I didn't have enough to go on. I mean, what's a few peanuts for a grown man? I thought I'd try olives for a change, but the wife had eaten them all up, along with most of the cheese. By the time we got to the elections, only three raisins and a lone cracker remained. "Excuse me," said Mrs. Pomerantz. "I'll get some more." She picked up the devas-

tated dishes and went out. We craned our necks to catch a glimpse of the kitchen, maybe something was going on there after all, but the place looked shockingly clean and bare: nothing was going on there. Meanwhile some more people had arrived — at 9:15 (?) — and then my stomach suddenly emitted a loud rumble and I thought I'd die of embarrassment.

I started talking at random — about Angola, Uganda. I don't know — while beginning to feel slightly sick after my second bowl of peanuts. Not that I have anything against peanuts as such — I consider them very wholesome, with all those proteins and everything — but they're a pretty poor substitute for turkey and potatoes.

I glanced at the little woman to see how she was getting along. From the looks of her I judged that the almonds and raisins were doing battle with Mr. Collins inside her. I myself switched to cheese, and I believe I swallowed a green plastic toothpick as well. I just couldn't stop any more. Mrs. Pomerantz stared at us hard, exchanged a few words with her husband, then went to the kitchen for fresh supplies.

"Yes," said someone by my side, "but the number of unemployed is rising by leaps and bounds..."

"What do you expect," I retorted, "with a government that's rotten with salt?"

Thank God I wasn't speaking very clearly, because my mouth was full of crackers. And anyhow, what did the guy mean telling me about unemployment, when right here in this living room a whole family was starving to death. The peanut bowl was empty again too, and the first signs of panic appeared on the faces of our hosts.

Mr. Pomerantz rummaged about in the cupboard a little and produced some toffees, which quickly joined the great majority down there. We'd eaten hardly anything since breakfast as I said, and were reduced to a sort of hand-to-mouth existence now.

The crackers were making such a racket in my mouth, they nearly deafened me from within, and I felt a little dizzy as well. Taking one thing with another, I suppose I had about four pounds of peanuts, half an olive tree and an ocean of salt inside me. I tried to suppress a fit of hiccups, along with some crazy jingle running through my head about General Smuts, lost his guts, 'cause Pea was crackers and Olive was nuts...

Next somebody mentioned Watergate and I nearly gagged. I'd got to the stage where even the thought of water made me sick, let alone food. All right, so let's not think of food, not food, never food...

"Please, everybody..."

Mr. Pomerantz threw the door into the next room wide open, revealing a long table resplendent in white damask and... plates... glasses... oh no...

And there was Mrs. Pomerantz too. Mrs. Pomerantz with the turkey, the mushroom soup, baked potatoes, asparagus, pickles...

"Dinner is served..."

Ah well, no matter.

Translated by Miriam Arad.



The Gesher Theater

We thank all who participated in the celebration of our third birthday.

To the Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin

To the Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yaffo

Ronnie Milo

To the Chairman of the Jewish Agency

Yehiel Leket

To the Minister of the Arts, Science and Communications

Shulamit Aloni

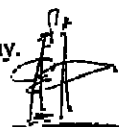
To the Minister of Immigrant Absorption

Yair Tsaban

and to Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi

our thanks for support in setting up the Theater, and for help along the way.

We look forward to continued cooperation.



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BE WRECK-LESS
DRIVE SAFELY

Bannister leads cast to celebrate 40th anniversary of 4-minute mile

LONDON (AP) — The 40th anniversary of the four-minute mile will be celebrated with a special gathering of some of the greatest middle-distance runners of modern times.

Fourteen of the 16 living men who have held the world mile record have accepted invitations to a London gala on Friday — 40 years to the date of Roger Bannister's landmark achievement at Oxford's Iffley Road track.

"It's a marvelous honor and I'm looking forward to it very much," Bannister, who recently retired as head of Oxford University's Pembroke College, said. "It was a bit of a surprise to me when I heard about it, but the British Athletic Federation felt they'd like to celebrate it and I feel very proud."

"We're going to see a gathering of running talent that may never, ever be repeated again," said Paul Dickenson, a member of the BAF's organizing committee.

In addition to Bannister, who turned 65 in March, the guests of honor include the oldest living record holder, 79-year-old Briton, Sydney Wooderson who clocked 4 minutes, 6.4 seconds in 1937.

Swede Gunder Hagg, who trad-



MILE HIGH — Roger Bannister (41) is supported by pacesetters Chris Brasher (1) and Chris Chataway after 1954 run.

ed the record with compatriot Arne Andersson several times in the 1940s before Bannister's 3:59.4 in 1954, will not attend due to illness. But Anderson, along with American Jim Ryun, Britons Sebastian Coe and Steve Cram, and the current holder, Noureddine Morceli of Algeria.

"It will be intriguing to meet Noureddine Morceli," Bannister said, "and discover how his training routines compare to the ones I used to use. He is clearly an extraordinary runner."

Organizers said Steve Ovett, Coe's rival in the late '70s and early '80s, is the only other of the 16 who will not attend. He is vacationing in Florida.

Plans also call for the runners to visit Iffley Road, where the same flag that flew on the day of Bannister's record will again be hoisted.

The BAF also hopes to assemble most of the five men who ran against Bannister on the record-breaking day. British runners Christopher Chataway and Christopher Brasher, who set the pace for Bannister, will attend, but the committee is still trying to locate the lone American in the race, listed in the books as G.F. Dole.

Former Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor is thrown for loss by world of big business

DAVID HENRY

NEW YORK — In his 13-year pro football career, former New York Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor sacked quarterbacks 142 times and all but guaranteed his induction into the Hall of Fame. His legendary ferocity made him the most feared player in football history.

Now LT, the football powerhouse, has embarked on a new career, this time as an entrepreneur. But so far, the only ones thrown for losses have been Taylor and his investors.

When Taylor entered the NFL in 1981, his abilities made him one of the game's leading players almost overnight. The same can't be said for his entry into the business world. Professional sports have a long history of athletic immortals allowing promoters to exploit their names and empty their wallets. A look at Taylor's business activities suggests that he may be falling into the same trap.

Taylor tapped loyal LT fans for his latest business venture last November when he sold \$5 million of stock units in a small startup company called All-Pro Products. From an offering price of \$5 each, the units shot up to \$11 the first day. By the end of the month, some buyers were paying as much as \$16. Recently, though, the price began to fall.

It was Taylor's name, augmented by hard-selling brokers, that powered the stock. There isn't much else in the company — just a stalled effort to sell an "isotonic sports beverage" plus plans to develop computer games. There are no products ready for sale.

And since Taylor also has aspirations as a movie star, his commitment to All-Pro is limited to 15 hours a week. All-Pro's prospectus describing the company to potential investors prudently promises nothing, and warns that a lot could go wrong.

But what the prospectus doesn't say is that unlike his pro football record, in which he was a perennial all-star, Taylor's business career has been less than stellar. His ventures have left behind a long trail of unpaid debts, litigation and irate investors.

Taylor said his misadventures resulted from trusting the wrong people. He said he's looking for skilled business managers because, after all, "What do I know about running a big, multimillion-dollar business? Nothing. It's not what you know, it's

who you know, and I can get into any door I want to."

In 1990 Taylor joined with Lyndhurst, N.J. lawyer Al Porro Jr. and a group of investors to open LT's Restaurant and Sports Bar near the Meadowlands sports complex in East Rutherford. Porro, a real estate lawyer, supplied the management team while Taylor, who owned a minority stake, supplied the star power.

LT's restaurant packed in crowds during its first two years. "His name was a big draw," said Porro. "As is the case with most athletes, that draw has its duration, and it then requires the presence of the person," he said.

Despite the crowds, the restaurant lost money, and Taylor himself rarely showed up. Taxes went unpaid. The landlord sued for rent. The books were in chaos.

In summer 1992, the restaurant was put into receivership and liquidated, as lawsuits flew among the partners, leaving tens of thousands of dollars of unpaid debts. Burton Cohen, the court-appointed receiver, said his files were subpoenaed by federal prosecutors in Newark, but that he does not know what, if anything, became of the government inquiry.

In the meantime, Porro enlisted Taylor in another project: the Lawrence Taylor Golf & Marina Center near the Meadowlands on 25 acres partly owned by Porro. The center includes a two-tier platform and driving range, miniature golf, a putting green, golf school and marina.

Taylor's name was recently taken off the center at his request after it, too, was sued by creditors, some of whom say they lent money because of Taylor's name.

Taylor's newest company, All-Pro Products, went public last November. Taylor says this venture, to develop a soft drink, is different from his past ones.

"When you're dealing with a public company rather than a regular business... you do something wrong and you go to jail. I ain't going to jail for nobody," he said. The company lost \$1.2 million through the end of November and is not selling drinks. Taylor has lent the company more than \$400,000.

The new sports drink is on hold — Taylor said the formula is not quite right and the potential marketing expenses are awesome. And Taylor has had second thoughts about the drink business



CLOSE COVERAGE — Lawrence Taylor sizes up the opposition on a 1992 trip to Elit. (Gad Kavallo)

because giant companies like Pepsi are getting into sports drinks.

But Taylor is unfazed. He said he's now more interested in virtual reality entertainment systems, billed as the next step in computer games.

About \$1.7m raised from All-Pro's stock offering will go to de-

velop games. Taylor said delays will keep them off the market until the middle of next year.

His past problems notwithstanding, Taylor said that this time he's gotten it right. "It is all a gamble," Taylor said. "Everything is a gamble. I've gambled all of my life."

Newsday

Pippen, Williams lead Bulls over Cavaliers



CHICAGO (AP) — Scottie Pippen scored 31 points and Scott Williams 21, including 13 in the final quarter, as Chicago began a quest for a fourth straight NBA title with a 104-96 victory over Cleveland Friday night.

Game 2 of the best-of-5 opening-round playoff series will be today at Chicago Stadium.

The Cavaliers played without the heart of their inside game. John "Hot Rod" Williams, Brad Daugherty and Larry Nance watched from the bench in street clothes because of injuries.

Gerald Wilkins led Cleveland with 23 points. Mark Price, with a 17.3 average Cleveland's leading scorer, managed just nine points. Pippen, who became Chicago's leader when Michael Jordan retired and then took up baseball, led a third-quarter surge and then had two spectacular baskets in the fourth quarter. He also finished with 12 rebounds. His 31 points were one short of his career playoff high.

Cleveland closed within four in the final period but Williams scored eight straight for Chicago and the Bulls had an 88-79 lead with 6:44 left.

Knicks 91, Nets 80 Patrick Ewing led a 10-0 fourth-quarter run that boosted host New York past the Nets, who won four of five between the teams during the season.

Ewing missed 13 of his first 17 shots and New York trailed 68-64. The veteran center started the winning burst with a three-point play. Charles Smith put New York ahead with a layup and, when he missed the ensuing free throw, Ewing made it 71-68 with an emphatic rebound dunk.

Ewing finished with 25 points and 13 rebounds. Derrick Coleman scored 27 points for the Nets. New York plays host to the Nets in Game 2 of the best-of-5 series today.

The teams set an NBA record for fewest points in the first half of a playoff game as the Knicks took a 35-33 halftime lead. The previous mark was 69 points, by Syracuse and Fort Wayne in 1955 and Seattle and Utah in 1993.

Rockets 114, Trail Blazers 104 Vernon Maxwell broke out of a shooting drought with 10 consecutive Houston points late in the game, leading the host Rockets.

The Rockets were protecting a 97-95 lead with 5:20 to play when Maxwell — who scored 24 points and hit five 3-pointers — started his decisive charge. He hit consecutive 3-point baskets and then two jumpers, going Houston 107-98 lead with 2:39 to play.

Clyde Drexler led the Blazers with 26 points, including 12 in the third period when Portland got back into the game after trailing 64-55 at halftime. Hakeem Olajuwon had 26 points, 10 rebounds and six blocked shots for Houston.



TRAFFIC JAM — NY Knicks' Charles Smith has his shot blocked by Nets' Kevin Edwards (1) and Jason Williams (55). (Reuter)

26 points, including 12 in the third period when Portland got back into the game after trailing 64-55 at halftime. Hakeem Olajuwon had 26 points, 10 rebounds and six blocked shots for Houston.

Suns 111, Warriors 104 Charles Barkley put back a missed free throw with 16 seconds left, then stole the ball from Chris Webber and made two free throws as Phoenix dodged a Game 1 upset by defeating Golden State.

Barkley finished with 36 points and 19 rebounds as the Suns went ahead 1-0 in the best-of-5 series that resumes today at America West Arena.

THURSDAY'S GAMES Heat 93, Hawks 88 Visiting Miami won their first NBA playoff game ever.

Miami's Glen Rice scored four of his 13 points in the final 34 seconds to lift the Heat to victory.

Spurs 106, Jazz 89 David Robinson had 25 points and eight rebounds and host San Antonio led all the way.

San Antonio was in control from the opening tip, starting the game with a 12-2 run and opening the second quarter with a 15-2 run.

SuperSonics 106, Nuggets 82 Detlef Schrempf scored 21 points and Gary Payton added 20 as Seattle coasted to a home win.

Shawn Kemp added 16 points and nine rebounds, and Ricki Porter chipped in with 13 points for Seattle, which compiled the league's best re-

cord during the regular season at 63-19.

Pacers 89, Magic 88 Byron Scott hit a three-pointer with two seconds remaining to lift Indiana to a road win.

The Pacers' Reggie Miller scored 24 points, including two three-pointers in the fourth quarter, to lead Indiana, trying to advance past the first round of the playoffs for the first time in six attempts.

Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points, 19 rebounds and five blocked shots for the Magic, who were making their first-ever playoff appearance.

NBA Playoff Gleanings Quarter-finals (Best-of-5) EASTERN CONFERENCE Friday's results:

New York 91, New Jersey 80 New York leads 1-0 Chicago 104, Cleveland 96 Chicago leads 1-0

Thursday's results: Miami 93, Atlanta 88 Miami leads 1-0 Indiana 88, Orlando 88 Indiana leads 1-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE Friday's results:

Houston 114, Portland 104 Houston leads 1-0 Phoenix 111, Golden State 104 Phoenix leads 1-0

Thursday's results: San Antonio 106, Utah 89 San Antonio leads 1-0 Seattle 108, Denver 82 Seattle leads 1-0

Kareem ponders coaching career

NEW YORK (AP) — If Magic could give it a try, why not Kareem?

On the 10th anniversary of becoming the NBA's all-time leading scorer, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar thinks about teaching basic skills to a new generation of basketball players.

"If you had asked me three years ago, I'd have said, 'Forget it. Are you out of your mind?'" Abdul-Jabbar said. "Now, it's not quite like that. There's a great need for people to teach the game. I don't think a lot of the young players, especially the front line players, are learning the fundamentals. That's something I know very well and could teach very well. So it's something that I would entertain given the right offer in the right circumstances."

The problem is whether this group of jumpers and dunkers would be inclined to listen to the old sky hook specialist. "They all want to look good for the girls in the stands," Abdul-Jabbar said. "They all want to see their pictures in the papers, high above the rim, jamming."

He preferred the hook shot that he first tried in desperation in the fourth grade. It was the same shot he used on April 5, 1984, to break Wilt Chamberlain's NBA scoring record, on a feed from Magic Johnson, who just retired as the Lakers' coach after an 11-game stint.

"I wouldn't have been able to do what I did if not for my selection of offense," he said. "I took high percentage shots in a high percentage area."

And he wonders why this generation avoids that.

When 7-foot-1 Lew Alcindor showed up at UCLA, the NCAA decided he had to be neutralized and banned the dunk. It hardly interfered with his offense. "It was an attempt by people on the rules committee to inhibit my game," he said. "I knew more than they thought. The dunk is not essential to winning basketball."

He simply went back to the sky hook, a shot he first took at Holy Providence boarding school as a fourth-grader. "It was my first year of organized basketball," he said. "I got into a game by some miracle. I got an offensive rebound and the only shot I could get off without getting the ball slammed back in my face was the hook. I did it instinctively. I practiced and worked hard and made it part of my basic game."

Abdul-Jabbar finished his 20-year career with 38,387 points.

The culprit in today's desire for the spectacular jam, according to Abdul-Jabbar, is style.

"Showmanship is certainly too

prominent in the game," he said.

"People are too worried about what things look like rather than substance. When I played, there were guys like Bill Bradley who were totally fundamentally sound. They could handle the ball, pass it, shoot it and fit in with five guys playing together. Nowadays, it's more to do with individuals taking everybody to the hoop or shooting 35-footers with people in their faces."

He cited Toni Kukoc in Chicago and Vlade Divac in Los Angeles as a pair of big men who seem more

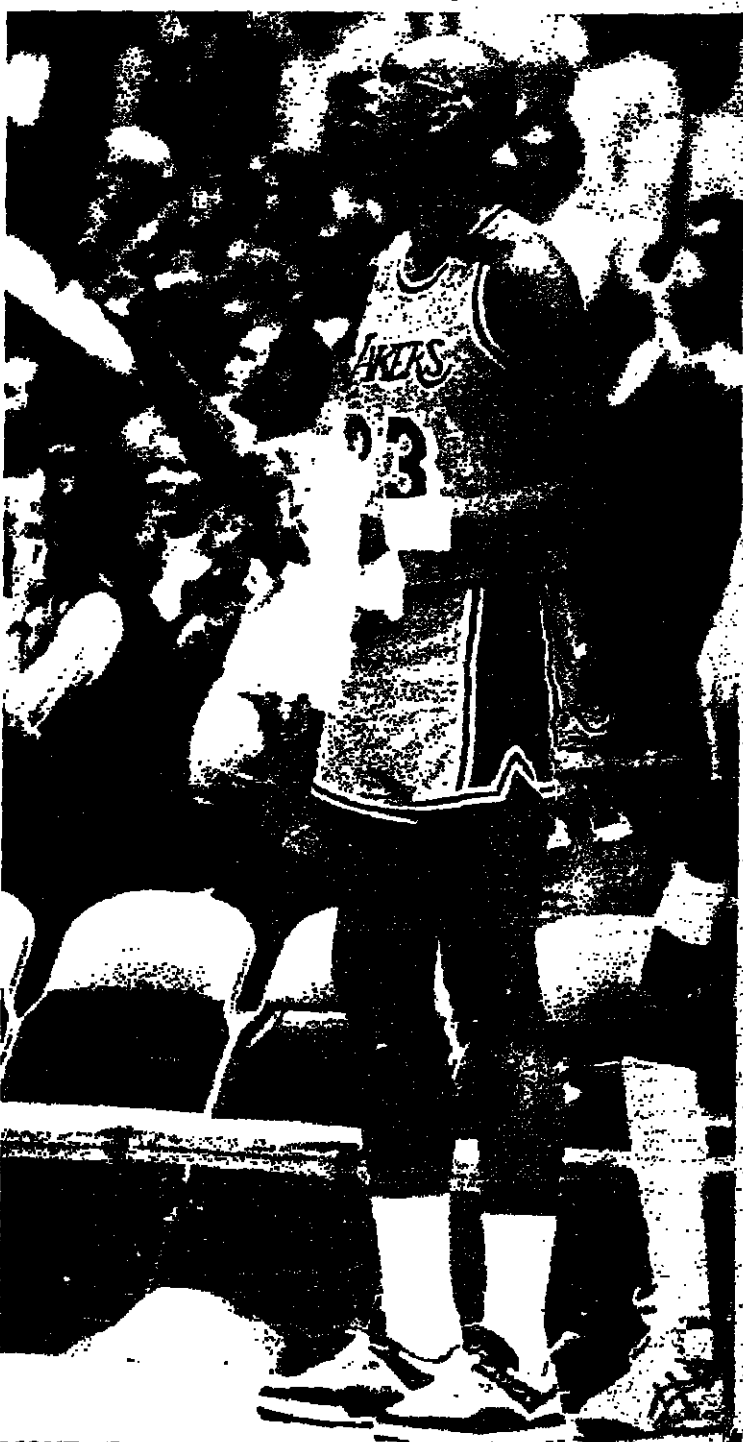
at home on the perimeter than they are in the paint.

"The fundamentals of playing closer to the basket are just not being taught," he said.

And he's willing to play professor — almost anywhere.

"I'm open to whatever might pop up," he said. "I think there's something there that I could do positively. There's a lot of knowledge that I have to give to another generation."

The question, though, is whether that generation would be smart enough to take it.



MORE CLOCKS TO WATCH? — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who has indicated a willingness to coach in the NBA, watches the clock tick off the final seconds of his fabulous 20-year career.

This week on Cable TV

TODAY

CHANNEL 5

18.00 NHL 15.50 Swimming 17.20 (to be announced) 19.00 World rugby 19.30 International diary 20.30 Live semifinal basketball playoff: Hapoel TA vs Hapoel Jerusalem 22.15 ATP tennis 22.45 Argentinean league soccer 23.45 Semifinal basketball playoff: Hapoel TA vs Hapoel Jerusalem

EUROSPORT

9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Motoring magazine 10.30 Live Formula 1 11.00 ATP 13.00 Bowling 14.30 Live Formula 1 17.00 Live ice hockey 19.30 ATP tennis from Madrid 21.30 Cycling from Spain 22.00 Live ice hockey 23.00 Formula 1 1.00 ATP tennis from Atlanta

PRIME SPORTS

6.00 European soccer show 7.00 WWF 8.00 Speed skating 9.00 Golf 11.00 International sports magazine 12.00 Mondial No. 16 12.30 Motoring magazine 13.00 Tennis 14.30 Live Formula 1 17.00 Baseball 18.00 International sports magazine 20.00 Mondial No. 16 20.30 Motoring magazine 22.00 Tennis 23.00 Live golf from Houston 1.00 Formula 1

MONDAY, MAY 2

CHANNEL 5

15.00 Semifinal basketball playoff: Hapoel TA vs Hapoel Jerusalem 17.45 International diary 18.45 Soccer: Diego Maradona with Argentina vs Morocco 20.15 Mondial 20.45

EUROSPORT

9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Figure skating 12.00 Aerobic championship 13.00 Formula 1 14.00 Live ice hockey 16.30 Laisure sports 17.00 Live ice hockey 19.30 Formula 1 20.30 Eurosport news 21.00 Live ice hockey 00.00 Eurogals 1.00 Eurogolf 2.00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6.00 Tennis 7.00 Formula 1 9.30 Baseball 11.00 Snooker 13.00 Sailing 13.30 Golf from Houston 15.30 Golf from Asia 18.30 Live motorcycling 19.00 Snooker 21.00 Sailing 21.30 Motor racing 23.30 Golf from Asia 00.30 Motorcycling

TUESDAY, MAY 3

CHANNEL 5

16.00 (to be announced) 19.00 Table tennis 20.00 Motor racing 20.30 NBA diary 21.00 Brazilian league soccer 22.00 French league soccer 22.30 English league soccer 23.30 NBA diary 00.00 International diary

EUROSPORT

9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Figure skating 12.00 Aerobic championships 13.00 Eurogals 14.00 Leisure sports 14.30 Mountain bike 15.00 European tennis 16.00 Triathlon 17.00 Live ice hockey 19.30 Formula 1 20.30 Eurosport news 21.00 Live ice hockey 23.30 Motor racing 00.30 European Cup soccer 2.30 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6.00 Golf from Houston 7.30 Asian golf 8.30 Motorcycling 11.00 Athletics 13.00 Sailing 13.30 Baseball 14.00 Beach volleyball 15.00 Golf from Japan 17.00 Bowling 19.00 Snooker 21.00 Sailing 21.30 Baseball 22.00 Beach volleyball 23.00 Golf from Japan 1.00 Bowling

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

CHANNEL 5

15.00 English league soccer 17.00 French league soccer 17.30 European table tennis 18.30 NBA 19.00 One on one: Interview with Scottie Pippen 19.30 (to be announced) 22.15 NBA playoff 23.45 Brazilian league soccer 00.45 French league soccer

EUROSPORT

9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Figure skating 12.00 Aerobic championships 13.00 Eurogals 14.00 Leisure sports 14.30 Mountain bike 15.00 European tennis 16.00 Triathlon 17.00 Live ice hockey 19.30 Formula 1 20.30 Eurosport news 21.00 Live ice hockey 23.30 Motor racing 00.30 European Cup soccer 2.30 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6.00 Beach volleyball 7.00 Golf from Japan 8.00 Boxing 11.00 Show jumping 13.00 Golf 13.30 World Cup soccer 14.00 Golf 15.00 Motor racing from Indonesia 16.00

THURSDAY, MAY 5

CHANNEL 5

15.00 (to be announced) 17.45 NBA playoff 19.15 English league soccer 20.15 French league soccer 20.45 Motor racing 21.00 WWF 22.00 Spanish league soccer 23.30 Behind the scenes with Romario, soccer star of Barcelona and Argentina 00.00 Dutch league soccer

EUROSPORT

9.30 Aerobics 10.00 Artistic gymnastics 11.00 European tennis 12.00 Triathlon 13.00 European Cup soccer 15.00 Snooker 16.00 Motoring magazine 17.00 Live ice hockey semi-final 18.30 Motoring magazine 20.30 Eurosport news 21.00 Live ice hockey 00.00 Soccer: Sweden vs Nigeria 2.00 Eurosport news

PRIME SPORTS

6.00 Golf 7.00 Motor racing from Indonesia 8.00 Motor racing from Australia 10.00 Horse racing 11.00 Snooker 13.00 Sailing 14.00 Show jumping 15.00 Bowling 16.00 Beach volleyball 17.00 Motor racing 18.00 Darts 19.00 Snooker 21.00 Sailing 21.30 Rugby 22.00 Show jumping 23.00 Bowling 00.00 Beach volleyball 1.00 Motor racing 2.00 Darts

Bruins send Montreal home Soccer crown takes northward turn

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Bruins ended Montreal's hopes for a second straight Stanley Cup and the New Jersey Devils ended four years of frustration in the playoffs.

Taking advantage of a sub-par performance by goaltender Patrick Roy, the Bruins beat the Canadiens 5-3 Friday night and knocked the defending Stanley Cup champions out of the playoffs.

It was the first time a defending champion was knocked out in the first round since Calgary lost in 1990.

The Devils, meanwhile, also won a Game 7 showdown with a 2-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres to advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Bruins.

The Devils, who had their greatest season this year, were eliminated in the first round the last four years.

In the other Eastern Conference semifinal starting today, the New York Rangers play host to the Washington Capitals.

First-round action continued in the Western Conference last night with San Jose at Detroit and Vancouver at Calgary. Both series are tied 3-3.

Dallas and Toronto have already won first-round series.

Bruins 5, Canadiens 3

Boston scored three times between the pads of a shaky Roy as the Bruins eliminated the Canadiens.

Boston led 4-0 early in the second period and 5-1 in the third before Montreal rallied on goals by Kevin Haller with 6:48 left and Mike Keane with 5:17 to go.

Roy, who missed Montreal's Game 3 loss because of an appendicitis attack, had been sensational in stopping 99 of 102 shots in Montreal's first two games.

Devils 2, Sabres 1

The Devils outlasted the Sabres and Dominik Hasek in Game 7 of a marathon Eastern Conference quarter-final series.

Claude Lemieux, who provided the game-winning for New Jersey in Game 5, came through again by snapping a second-period tie.

New Jersey didn't get to the next round until Buffalo's Dale Hawerchuk was stopped by Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur with 16 seconds to play after a fine backhand setup by Alexander Mogilyan.

THURSDAY'S GAMES:

Red Wings 7, Sharks 1

Host Detroit's big guns finally roared. Detroit, which had the best record in the conference and the fourth best in the NHL, scored the first five goals.

Sergei Fedorov, Steve Chiasson, Ray Sheppard and Vyacheslav Kozlov scored first-period goals. Steve Yzerman, who missed the first four games

with a knee injury, scored in the second. Dino Ciccarelli struck in the second and third, giving him five goals in the series.

Maple Leafs 1, Blackhawks 0

Felix Potvin stopped 27 shots for his third shutout of the series as Toronto clinched the opening-round NHL playoff series in the final hockey game at Chicago Stadium.

Toronto won the series 4-2, including three by a 1-0 score, and advanced to the Western Conference semifinals.

Cannucks 3, Flames 2

Trevor Linden scored with less than four minutes left in the first overtime period to lift Vancouver to a home win.

The Canucks evened the series at three games apiece with their second straight overtime win.

Wes Walz of Calgary scored his third goal of the series at 3:24 of the third period to tie the game at 2-2. Walz had 11 goals in 53 games during the regular season.

NHL Playoff Glance

Quarter-finals (Best-of-7)

Eastern Conference

NY Rangers win 4-0

Washington wins 4-2

Friday's results:

New Jersey 2, Buffalo 1

New Jersey wins 4-3

Boston 5, Montreal 3

Boston wins 4-3

Western Conference

Dallas wins series 4-0

Thursday's results:

Toronto 1, Chicago 0

Toronto wins 4-2

Detroit 7, San Jose 1

Detroit wins 3-0

Vancouver 3, Calgary 2

Series tied 3-3

MACCABI Haifa can now see the National League title beckoning at the end of a long season.

The host Haifaites put on another brilliant display to bury opponents Hapoel Petah Tikva 6-0, while their only challengers, Maccabi Tel Aviv, dropped two vital points with a goalless draw against Hapoel Tel Aviv in the derby at Ramat Gan.

In other action, four goals by Eli Ohana lifted Beitar Jerusalem over Hapoel Holon 6-1.

At the bottom of the table, Hapoel Haifa's slim hopes of survival now seem to have disappeared, after suffering another defeat, just when they seemed to be getting their act together.

Maccabi Haifa 6, Hapoel Petah Tikva 0

Hapoel Petah Tikva was the first side to have a scoring opportunity when Motti Kakkon stepped up to take a penalty in the 27th minute. He could only hit the post, however, as Haifa breathed a sigh of relief.

Three minutes later, the Haifa blitz began. Sergei Kandravov broke through on the right to shoot past the Petah Tikva 'keeper Shai Hess.

Reuven Atar made it 2-0 in the 41st minute when he came to the rescue of Alon Mizrahi, who could not control the ball, and stabbed it home from close range.

Ivan Getzko ran in to head home from a cross by Kandravov from the right in the 49th minute. Then Atar scored the goal of the season. He controlled a ball on his shoulder with his back to the goal, chested it down as he turned and volleyed from 20 meters out. But the crossbar interfered with Atar's best-laid plans. Getzko then proceeded to miss a header off the rebound.

Getzko made amends soon afterwards when he headed in, this time from a cross from the left by Moshe Giam in the 58th minute. Getzko made it 5-0 in the 66th minute, volleying home from close range to complete his hat-trick.

Ten minutes from time, Mizrahi headed out the post and Marco Bal-

bul scored a cracker from the rebound to seal the result.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 0, Hapoel Tel Aviv 0

Of the 30,000 spectators who came out to watch the Tel Aviv derby, the fans draped in red will be much the happier with this result.

But while this is the first derby in four seasons which Hapoel hasn't lost, they will be kicking themselves silly for not taking advantage of several golden opportunities which came their way.

The match was played at a very fast pace, but a lack of accuracy at the finish made a difference for both sides.

Maccabi, for its part, managed to know that the points they dropped will probably have cost them the championship.

The result at Ramat Gan caused mass celebrations among the fans in Haifa, who can now see the title coming back to the port city.

Beitar Jerusalem 6, Hapoel Holon 1

With Ohana's hat-trick plus one, Beitar repaid its debt to Hapoel Holon with interest. And the fact that the Jerusalemites' home game was played at Ramat Gan because of a radius punishment had no effect on them.

Yakov Schwartz opened the scoring in the 31st minute as Beitar attempted to avenge the 5-1 humiliation inflicted by Holon the last time the two sides met.

Just four minutes later, Eli Ohana began his fabulous scoring spree when he headed home from a pass by his strike team, Ronen Harazi.

In the 38th minute, Ohana added a second, again from a header after a cross by Oleg Koshuk. The Jerusalemite completed his hat-trick in the 56th minute, before Marco Ben-Baruch pulled a goal back for Holon from the penalty spot 15 minutes from time after Beitar 'keeper Yakov Assayag felled Itzik Suissa in the area.

But the Jerusalemites would not be put off. With five minutes to go, Shmuel Levy made it 5-1 and a minute from the end, Ohana completed the Beitar deluge by scoring his fourth goal.

Hapoel Be'er Sheva 0, Maccabi Netanya 0

This goalless draw is bad news for Be'er Sheva who is slowly slipping away

ORI LEWIS

from the fight for third spot in the league and a possible place in European soccer next season.

Be'er Sheva was the dominant team for much of the match, but was unable to convert its advantage into goals.

Ironi Ashdod 1, Bnei Yehuda 3

Two goals by Sergei Gerasimetz saw a superior Bnei Yehuda side to victory over Ashdod. The hosts tried to attack at all costs, but to no avail. Their leaky defense proved no obstacle for the visitors.

First, Sabar Mizrahi broke free in the 17th minute to beat Bonnie Ginsburg in the Ashdod goal, then, Gerasimetz with a goal either side of halftime (44 and 46) assured Bnei Yehuda of the points.

Amir Turjeman scored a consolation goal for Ashdod five minutes from time and in the last minute, Bnei Yehuda's Shai Adani was sent off for an over-zealous foul on an Ashdod player.

Hapoel Kfar Sava 2, Maccabi Herzliya 0

The Kfar Savans earned three vital points in their determined effort to keep away from the relegation spot when Gabi Sapir put them ahead in the eighth minute.

Michael Yaffe made it 2-0 some 30 minutes later when he headed home from a corner taken by Yaniv Cohen.

Hapoel Haifa 1, Maccabi Petah Tikva 2

The Haifaites returned to their old losing ways on Friday and their belated hopes of avoiding relegation took another knock as they were beaten in front of their home fans.

Older Dignit struck for Petah Tikva in the ninth minute, and Haifa threw caution to the wind in an attempt to equalize. Hisham Zuabi finally found the net for Haifa five minutes before halftime, the referee waving him on as Petah Tikva appealed for offside and Haifa lived again.

But a disastrous second half for the hosts saw their hopes of victory disappear when Yaron Givoli scored an own goal when trying to clear a Petah Tikva corner. In the last minute of the game, Zuabi was shown red card for a foul off the ball on a Petah Tikva player.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Hapoel Haifa (11) Maccabi PT (12)

Zuzak 40 Be'er Sheva 9

Ironi Ashdod (10) Bnei Yehuda (23)

Turjeman 85 Maccabi Herzliya (10)

Hapoel Kfar Sava (23) Hapoel Tel Aviv (10)

Sapir 38 Maccabi Herzliya (10)

Maccabi Haifa (10) Hapoel Tel Aviv (10)

Hapoel Be'er Sheva (10) Maccabi Netanya (10)

Bnei Yehuda (10) Hapoel Holon (10)

Schwartz 31 Be'er Sheva (10)

Ohana 35, 38, 56, 59

Levi 85

After 34 rounds

W D L F A Pts

Maccabi Haifa 25 0 0 87 23 84

Maccabi Tel Aviv 25 5 1 72 30 80

Bnei Yehuda 15 8 11 67 52 59

Hapoel Be'er Sheva 15 10 9 46 34 36

Hapoel Tel Aviv 15 14 5 50 50 50

Maccabi Netanya 11 9 14 56 61 42

Bnei Yehuda 12 6 18 43 57 42

Hapoel Holon 11 12 12 38 32 38

Maccabi Petah Tikva 10 11 13 34 39 41

Hapoel Be'er Sheva 9 11 14 38 47 39

Maccabi Herzliya 8 9 13 30 37 37

Ironi Ashdod 8 8 18 46 50 32

Hapoel Kfar Sava 7 19 30 54 79

Hapoel Haifa 4 11 19 27 74 23

SECOND DIVISION

Hapoel Ashdod 0 Shimon TA 2

Maccabi Haifa 0 Hapoel Tel Aviv 2

Dalati el-Carmel 0 Hapoel Ashdod 2

Maccabi Haifa 0 Hapoel Ashdod 2

Be'er Sheva 1 Hapoel Be'er Sheva 1

Hapoel Haifa 1 Hapoel Haifa 1

Maccabi Haifa 1 Hapoel Haifa 1

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Everton flirts with relegation

LONDON (Reuters) — Everton, one of the traditional "Big Five" of English soccer, moved closer to relegation from the Premier League when they lost 3-0 to Leeds yesterday.

And Tottenham, another fallen member of English soccer's aristocracy, is also deep in trouble after losing 2-1 at London rivals Wimbledon.

Everton fell into the bottom three for the first time this season after their heavy defeat at Leeds; and 40 years in the top flight will end next week if they lose their last match of the season at home to Wimbledon. Even a draw may not be enough to save them.

Everton and Tottenham were the only relegation-threatened teams who played and lost, as Sheffield United and Southampton both won and Manchester City and Oldham both drew.

Sheffield United beat Newcastle 2-0 while Middlesbrough to a 4-1 win over Aston Villa with a masterly display and two priceless goals.

Oldham drew 0-0 with Sheffield Wednesday, while Manchester City held Chelsea to a 2-2 draw after trailing 2-0 after only 19 minutes.

Despite losing at Sheffield United, Newcastle clinched a UEFA Cup place for next season as Arsenal, the only team who could overtake them and finish third, lost 2-0 at home to West Ham.

The focus was on the bottom of the table with the championship race on hold until today and tomorrow when league leaders Manchester United plays Ipswich and second-placed Blackburn plays at Coventry.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Arsenal 0, West Ham 2; Leeds 3, Everton 0; Liverpool 0, Norwich 1; Manchester City 2, Chelsea 2; Oldham 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0; Queens Park Rangers 1, Swindon 3; Sheffield United 2, Newcastle 0; Southampton 4, Aston Villa 1; Wimbledon 2, Tottenham 1.

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Sheff Wed 38 25 10 4 76 37 85

Wolves 41 22 8 11 80 41 74

Arsenal 41 22 8 11 80 41 74

Leeds 41 22 8 11 80 41 74

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Ramon man accused of sexual harassment

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MERETZ activists added fuel to the fire over the Ramon-Meretz-Shas Histadrut alliance by charging that a Ramon-appointed male candidate chosen to replace the Meretz female candidate in Holon was suspected of sexual harassment and bad labor relations.

The activists demanded that Yosef Deri, Ramon's candidate for secretary of the Holon labor council, be disqualified.

Deri, formerly a Labor activist and the cousin of Shas leader Aryeh Deri, was placed at the head of the Holon list last week instead of Hanna Kopeinikov, in compliance with Shas's demand to remove women candidates from the list and replace them with men. Sarah Doron, the list's candidate for labor secretary in Haifa, was also replaced by a male candidate.

The ferment in Meretz following the concessions in the field of women's rights and status, which Ramon and Meretz leaders had made to Shas, and the removal of women candidates from the lists for local labor councils continued over the weekend.

Meretz activists in Holon last week called a few meetings with Ramon and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, demanding in vain to reinstate Kopeinikov and to disqualify Deri due to the numerous complaints against him.

Following the list leaders' refusal to heed their demands, Holon Meretz activists threatened yesterday to withdraw from the election

campaign.

Workers complaints against Deri for violence and sexual harassment in the post office branch where he served as manager were published by *Shet Arim* (Two Cities), a local Holon-Bat Yam newspaper, in May 1990.

Deri, it wrote, "swears at workers freely, and even the greeting 'good morning' from him borders on cursing and dirty language. He beats workers and I got a slap in the face from him," one worker was quoted as saying.

Another worker, a woman, complained of sexual harassment on Deri's part. Deri was then No. 2 on Labor's list for the local labor council, and the workers complained that he applied pressure on them to vote for Labor in the 1989 Histadrut elections.

Deri rejected all the accusations and said in the article that in 31 years he had always helped the workers. But a week after the report was published, Deri fired two post office workers whom he suspected of having leaked information about him to the press, Meretz activists said. It is not proper that a man with such a reputation should head a list which is supposed to represent the workers, the activists insisted.

The Ramon-Meretz list spokeswoman said yesterday that the list's legal adviser looked into Deri's past and found that no complaints had been presented against him and he had not been convicted of any crime.



Members of the Labor Party's Young Guard demonstrate Friday against the Ramon-Meretz-Shas list for the Histadrut elections at the Nahalat Binyamin pedestrian mall in Tel Aviv. Dozens of activists dressed as haredim protested what they called "the sellout of the status of women in Israel," claiming Ramon and Meretz had abandoned their commitment to women to appease Shas, in their bid to take over the Histadrut. (Israel Sun)

Tunisian director due to attend Israeli premiere of his new film

LIAT COLLINS

TUNISIAN film director Reida Hari will be guest of honor at the Israeli premiere of his new film *The Hyena's Sunshine* at Jerusalem's Cinematheque tonight.

The movie is one of the attractions of the opening night of the Green Screen Film Festival of environmental movies at the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem cinematheques and other venues around the country.

The festival is sponsored by the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, the government's Information Center, cable television's Channel 8 and the cinematheques.

The Foreign Ministry approached Hari about attending the premiere and the director was apparently enthusiastic about the idea, according to the Information Center's Efraim Shreiber. Although his movies take him around the world, Hari is based in Tunisia and his movies have local themes.

His latest film tells the story of farmers whose coastal stretch of

land is taken over by urban businessmen.

Hari will also present the Werner Herzog film *Lessons of Darkness*, on the environmental impact of the Gulf War.

During the 11-day festival, dozens of films from more than 30 countries will be screened, some accompanied by lectures or panels of specialists.

The films were obtained from many sources; many of them aired at the recent Green Screen London Film Festival.

Other festival events include photo exhibitions and the "Green Detective" contest of home movies depicting environmental problems.

The concluding event will be an "Environment and Rock 'n' Roll" party at Tel Aviv's Hard Rock Cafe.

TUED spokeswoman Sharon Alexander said the group hoped to turn the festival into an annual event to raise environmental awareness.

Wage agreement signed for public sector workers

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat and Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld last night signed a wage agreement giving most of the nation's 600,000 public sector employees a 21% salary increase over the next three years.

The agreement, termed "historic" by Haberfeld, will for the first time include as pensionable income all the elements that make up the workers' wage. Currently, nearly 30 percent of the workers' salaries, including overtime, car allowance and other fringe benefits, are not part of pensionable income. As a result, public

sector retirees only receive pensions of about 40% of their salaries.

To enable workers retiring in 10 to 15 years to receive full pension payments of 70% of their salary, public sector employers and their employees will each set aside an annual amount equal to half a percent of the employees' global salary for the next four years.

This additional 4% of the workers' global salary will cover the cost of financing pension

payments based on the worker's total wages.

The agreement signed last night directly covers about 120,000 workers represented by the civil service, engineers, technicians, and practical engineers unions. However, it forms the basis for wage agreements throughout the public sector. Workers will be getting a wage hike of from 6%-11% from January 1, based on position and seniority.

The wage hikes included in the agreement will not apply to unprofitable government companies.

Agency to probe Yad Ora school

SASHA SADAN

COMPLAINTS about the Yad Ora boarding school, where 170 Ethiopian immigrant girls live, are being investigated by the Jewish Agency. Defense for Children International (DCI) has asked Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban to close it down.

Yad Ora, in Afeka, is part of the educational network run by Migdal Or, founded by Rabbi David Grossman of Migdal Ha'emek.

DCI legal coordinator Yair Ronen said that a visit there by its ombudsman for Ethiopians, Mulatu Dessie, elicited a barrage of complaints from the girls, who range in age from 12 to 18. Some of the girls are orphans, said Ronen.

DCI said the girls complained of being segregated from Israeli society and not being taught skills that would help them integrate.

Ronen said several social workers had come and gone at Yad Ora, apparently leaving because they did not approve of the way the school was run.

Nahum Assulin, who oversees the education programs of Migdal Or institutions, said Rabbi Meir

Lahani, who runs Yad Ora is not only there more hours than he needs to be, but cares deeply about the girls and has reached into his pocket to finance their minor expenses.

"I am very surprised to hear there are complaints about him. He is with the girls 24 hours a day. He worries about everything," Assulin said.

He said that since the beginning of the school year, 50 of the girls have been attending public school in Migdal Ha'emek and the rest of the girls, except for one class not quite ready for it, would attend public school in the fall.

According to Assulin, "only Ethiopian girls are living at the facility, in keeping with Youth Aliya policy." He said Yad Ora does have a social worker available to the girls 20 hours a week, and that one social worker had left because she was "problematic."

Jewish Agency departmental spokesman Eldad Adar said the girls would soon be mixed with girls from other backgrounds and that recent complaints about Yad Ora are being checked.

Plot thwarted to kidnap Dutchman's children

RAINE MARCUS

AN Israeli security firm recently foiled a plot by members of an organized crime syndicate from the former Yugoslavia to kidnap two adopted children of a Dutch multimillionaire.

According to Shalhevet company directors Gal Mor and Shuki Gilon, former Yugoslavian nationals are responsible for much of Germany and Holland's organized crime, including extortion, bribery, kidnapping and dealing in stolen property.

They are considered ruthless, they said.

A few months ago, Dutch police received an anonymous letter informing them of a plot to kidnap two adopted children of tycoon Hans Prokovan, owner of a chain of record shops.

The family contacted the firm for help.

Mor and Gilon organized a round-the-clock guard on Prokovan's family and after gathering intelligence information, succeeded in finding seven conspirators, who were known to Interpol.

Their names were given to police, who cautioned the alleged would-be kidnappers, but did not arrest them.

"In Europe suspects are rarely charged with conspiracy," said Gilon. "And police cannot expel them from the country because people can wander freely around EU countries today."

Investors get call after peace deal signed

HILLEL KUTTNER and news agencies

WASHINGTON

A GROUP of Jewish and Arab businessmen got a surprise telephone call Friday in the midst of their meeting to discuss joint investments in the future Palestinian autonomy zone.

On the line from Paris was Dr. Ahmed Khoury (Abu Alla), who called to announce that he and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat had just signed the first-ever Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement.

The group he called, Builders for Peace, consists of Jewish and Arab-American industrialists planning investments in the territories once Palestinian "self-rule" begins.

Abu Alla's call "really captures what this is all about," said Arab American Institute President James Zogby, who also serves as co-president of Builders for Peace. "It demonstrates how seriously the Palestinians take Builders (for Peace) and America's interest in investing in the territories."

Just across the street from the White House, the organization was holding its third national meeting since being founded shortly after the September 13 signing of the Israeli-PLO declaration of principles.

The economics pact now enables investors here to move ahead to "tangible discussions of business opportunities in the region," Zogby stated.

Cameri actor Avner Hiskiyahu dies

HELEN KAYE

CAMERI Theater actor Avner Hiskiyahu died at Sheba Hospital on Thursday after a long battle with cancer. He was 68.

Winner of both the Rovina and Rosenblum prizes for acting, Hiskiyahu recently won the Rafael Klatchkin Prize awarded by the American-Israeli Foundation, for lifetime achievement in the theater. The award ceremony was scheduled for May 13.

"He was an actor's actor," said long-time colleague and friend Oded Teomi. "Onstage, he com-

manded attention. Offstage, he was a very private person who never sought the limelight."

Born in Bulgaria, Hiskiyahu immigrated in 1949 and for two years acted in a Bulgarian-language theater in Jaffa. His 40-year career on the Hebrew stage really began at Habimah, where he remained for nine years.

After a year studying in Paris with Yossi Banai and playwright Nissim Aloni, the three friends returned home and founded the

Onot Theater, which folded for financial reasons after five successful years. Hiskiyahu joined the Cameri in 1968.

His roles ran the gamut from peasant to king. He played the porter Galy Gay in *Man Equals Man* and Azdak in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, both by Bertold Brecht, the title role in *Uncle Vanya* and Nate in *I'm Not Rappoport*. His most memorable royal roles include Caspar in *The King's Clothes* and the king in *The Ameri-*

can Princess, both by Aloni; the title role in Pirandello's *Henry IV*, and King David in *Crowned Head* by Ya'akov Shabtai.

His last role was also that of a king. Already ailing, he played the dying Edward IV in Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

"The problem with being on stage so many years in this little country of ours," Teomi said, "is that critics and audience know all the rabbits in the actor's hat, except that Hiski had lions in his."

Hiskiyahu is survived by his wife Yael and his actor son, Rami.

Hefetz takes over today as police head

OUTGOING Police Inspector-General Rafi Peled will continue to receive his salary and also be given a car for 18 months following his resignation this afternoon.

Cmdr. Assaf Hefetz takes over the position of inspector-general in a ceremony today at the National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem.

After the ceremony, Peled, who held the position for 13 months, will bid farewell to the police staff. Peled decided to step down after the High Court of Justice recommended reopening the investigation into his alleged acceptance of hotel discounts.

Speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv on Thursday, Peled said he had not decided what he would be doing next.

In a departure speech to the Central District Command on Friday, Hefetz said the police and all of Israel was facing a very difficult period.

"The next five or six years are expected to be unstable. The police will have to develop new tools and capabilities to deal with problems unknown before," Hefetz said. (Iam)

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